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# Kuwait celebrates 29th National Day

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1990/RAJAB 29, 1410 AH

'All hell broke loose': 'I saw a big fire like the sun'

# Syrians blast Cypriot ferry

Dead passenger just obtained emigration visa for Canada: 18 hurt

LARNACA, Cyprus, Feb 24, (Agencies): A Syrian gunboat fired 20 shells into a passenger ferry travelling between this east. Mediterranean island and the Lebanese port of Jounieh today, killing one passenger, crew members said.

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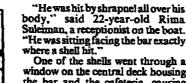
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The attack wounded 18 passengers of the Baroness M, four critically, said a spokesman for the British bases on Cyprus. The Royal Air Force evacuated 15 of the wounded by winching them aboard three helicopters several hours before the ship docked at Larnaca at 1 pm (1100 GMT), said the spokesman.

The wounded, most suffering cuts and burns in the legs from shrapnel, were rushed to local hospitals for treatment. The dead man was identified as Nasr Abu Nasr, 26, who was going to

Lebanon to pick up his pregnant wife because he had just obtained an emigration visa to Canada.



the bar and the caleteria, causing most of the casualties as passenger sheltered there. Shattered pipes throughout the vessel leaked water. Military sources in Cyprus, said they believed the attacking gunboat was Syrian.

Baroness M issued an emergency radio call saying "I have been attacked and bombed by a Syrian warship and I am on fire." There was no immediate reaction from Syria.

Greek Capt. George Samlotakis three separate times, starting around 4.30 am (0200 GMT), when it was 30 kilometres (19 miles) west of Joun-

Crew members said the gunboat fired warning shots over the ferry and then hailed it in Syrian-accented They asked us who was on board

and where we were going," said Egyptian mechanic Mohammed Al Murshidi, 27. He said he talked with them over the radio because most the crew spoke only Greek or English.
"All hell broke loose," Samiotakis
told reporters after the Baroness M

returned to Larnaca. Some of the 52 crewmen on the ferry identified the attacker as a Soviet-built Syrian OSA-class gun-boat but Samiotakis could not con-

He said the gunboat came along-side his 3,987-ton ferry, as it approa-ched Jounieh north of Beirut at 4.40 am (0240 GMT) and fired in the air.

He turned the ship to head back to Larnaca but the gunboat followed and approached within 300 metres before opening fire without warning. "Before I could stop the ship they opened fire," said Samiotakis, adding that the shooting continued for three minutes.

At least 16 shots slammed into the

starboard hull, wrecking the saloon and cabins on the deck above.

"I saw a big fire like the sun, black smoke, people shouting and glass breaking," said one Lebanese pas-senger. "Everyone was on the floor.

The man who was killed was sitting against the side and was hit in the Samiotakis said the gunboat moved remained nearby after the shooting. Fearing further attack, his

crew signalled it with white sheets.

The gunboat approached again and demanded that the ferry lower its vehicle ramp, presumably to check the cargo, which the captain said consisted only of five tonnes of medical supplies for Lebanon.

"I have no idea why we were stop-ped." Samiotakis said. He said he saw no name or flag on the gunboat, which was about 40 metres long and carried torpedoes and cannon. He did not speak direc-tly to the gunboat crew but Arabic speakers on the ferry told him the

(Continued on Page 8)

#### Singer Vaughan enters hospital

LOS ANGELES, Feb 24, (UPI): Jazz great Sarah Vaughan has been hospitalised for treatment of a cancerous tumour on her right hand, officials at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre said.

Vaughan, 65, was first treated for the problem at Cedars-Sinai in June 1989 and has been in and out of the hospital at least three times for additional treatment, hospital spokesman Ron Wise said.

Vaughan has been diagnosed with "synovial sarcoma," which Wise des-cribed as "a kind of cancer involved in soft tissues."



Up for sale

border guard, is selling uniforms of the East German

A young West German, dressed as an East German police and border-guards to tourists, in East Berlin near the Reichstag building on Friday. (Reuter wire-

# Kashmiris armed

Indian troops kill 3 more

ISLAMABAD, Feb 24, (Agencies): The president of the Pakistan-controlled Azad Kashmir said today that Kashmiris have begun smuggling arms across the border to Muslim insurgents fighting for independence from

President Abdul Qayyum, in an interview with the Associated Press, said the people of his state also have been sheltering insurgents since India launched a military crackdown in its state of

Jammu-Kashmir on Jan 20. More than 100 Muslim separatists have been killed in Indian side of Kashmir since the crackdown began. Protests continued today as tens of thousands of Muslims marched in several cities. Three people were killed

today. In a related development, state-run banks in Pakistan's Azad Kashmir state have begun collections to help the uprising. During a three-day trip in the region last week, signs were seen in dozens of banks calling for donations for "a holy war against India.

Naveed Hussain, a state government spokesman, said that 100,000 rupees (about \$5,000) had been raised in a week and that the money would be used to train Kashmiri militia

The head of the Pakistanbased Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front, a local activist group, said his organisation also was seeking funds and would soon begin smuggling weapons across the border.

"We will definitely be giving our brothers many weapons.

said activist Amanullah Khan, in an interview late last week in Muzzafarabad, the capital of Pakistan's Kashmir state.

Tensions have been high on the ceaselire line since India began its crackdown in Kashmir. Pakistani soldiers manning posts near the border village of Chaukothi say they exchange fire daily with Indian troops. On Feb 18, a Pakistani soldier was wounded by Indian fire, becoming the first military casualty since the recent troubles began.

Qayyum said he was defying orders from Pakistan's central government to restrict his activism. He said he recently had jourdle East in search of funds for the fight in

(Continued on Page 2)

Your date with the

#### Greetings

Arab Times congratulates HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Premier, the government and the people of Kuwait on the 29th National

On this occasion, today's Arab Times carries a six-page (11-16) special supplement on

## Cyanide alert at beaches

BRIGHTON, England, Feb 24 (AP): Authorities closed beaches along the Sussex coast in southern England today, less than 24 hours after they were reopened, when two containers of potentially lethal pottassium cyanide washed ashore.

The public was barred from the beaches earlier in the week after six containers of pottassium evanide were found on Sussex beaches.

The containers are thought to have been part of a chemical shipment from Sheerness. on England's east coast, to Saudi Arabia which was washed overboard during recent heavy

Brighton council warned the public to stay away from a 10mile (16-km) stretch of beach around Brighton after one container was washed up at nearby Hove and another was seen float-

ing off Saltdean. We are continuing a inorough search, neidei Sussex police helicopter.' Police have warned that if the

containers leak the cyanide fumes could be fatal.

FAIR weather with light variable and

#### Weather

moderate northerly wind. State of sea: Slight to moderate High water: 1.25 am, 11.54 pm Low water: 6.30 am, 6.18 pm Sunrise: 6.19 am Sunset: 5.44 pm Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 20°C 68°F Ahmadi: 18°C 64°F Failaka: 19°C 66°F Ahmadi: (1°C 52°F Failaka: 10°C 50°F Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 21°C 70°F Ahmadi: 18°C 64°F Failaka: 29°C 66°F Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 78 per cent Ahmadi: 50 per cent Failaka: 60 per cent

# Wield dollar weapon

The Baroness M pockmarked by shell holes. (Reuter wirephoto)

#### Saddam call to Arabs

AMMAN, Feb 24, (Agencies): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein opened a four-nation Arab summit today urg-ing 'Arabs to pressure the United States by shifting billions of dollars of investments to Eastern Europe. Just as Israel uses interest groups

to apply pressure on the American administration, there are hundreds of billions of dollars invested by Arabs in the United States and the West which could be used for this purpose," the Iraqi leader said.
"In fact, this investment could be converted to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and I believe it is a

profitable investment, probably more profitable than in the West." Saddam's comments came as the Arab Co-operation Council leaders formally opened their first anniversary summit with speeches urging Arabs to adapt to the democratic changes sweeping Eastern Europe.

The leaders condemned Soviet

Jewish migration to Israel and vowed to prevent the superpowers imposing their will on the region.
"If we do not define our role in the

world, others will define it for us," Jordan's King Hussein told fellow-"There are those who want our region, our nation and our people to

of history," he said.
"A new world order is emerging" based on economic and political blocs rather than on hegemony and the arms race, said Hussein, who last

try's system. of the historic developments and employ them to enhance their existence, stability and growth, or ... be

year began liberalising his own coun-He said Arabs can either "be part

on the periphery ... and so become an easy prey that is mercilessly leeched and discarded."

are conferring with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh a year after founding the council, simed at promoting economic co-operation.

The leaders, who arrived yester-

day, were scheduled to hold talks together with their prime ministers and foreign ministers today and tomorrow, as well as to hold private talks at the newly renovated miya palace west of Amman.

Mubarak, whose country is involved in US-backed Arab-Israeli peace efforts, urged the superpowers to help solve the conflicts pitting Arab against Israeli, Iraq against Iran and Lebanese against Lebanese.

He also said his country would "defend the rights of the Arabs against any attempts to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab lands, including Arab Jerusalem."

(Continued on Page 8)

#### NEWSWATCH

The Jordanian and Iraqi leaders

"If I were Gorbachev ...: Solidarity leader Lech Walesa says Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev should disband the Soviet Union and start all over

His union's daily Gazeta Wyborcza quoted him on Saturday as saying: "If I were Gorbachev. I would dissolve the Soviet Union as soon as possible and try to integrte all the republics in a new federation based on partnerlike relations."

He made the remark in response to a question at a news conference in the Balties port of Gdynia on Friday. (Reuter)

Saudi Arabia bans British beef: Saudi Arabia on Saturday banned British cattle imports because of the outbreak of "mad cow" disease in Britain, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

We have informed the Ministry of Trade ... of the ban on importing British cattle until they are proven free of 'mad cow' disease." SPA quoted a statement by the Ministry of Water Resources and Agriculture as

Kremlin appeals for calm: The government on Saturday appealed for calm and restraint at prodemocracy demonstrations and rallies scheduled for Sunday and warned that agitators who provoked

violence would face harsh penalties.

The government appeal was carried on the front page of all national newspapers and broadcast in the hourly news broadcasts of Radio Moscow, a day before the planned rallies that could attract millions of people nation-wide. (AP)

Spanish police seize hashish: Spanish police said on Saturday they had seized 575 kg (1,260 pounds) of harhish hidden in a haystack and detained two Spaniards and a Moroccan in connection with the haul. (Reuter)

Girl found with grandparents: Seven-year-old Hilary Foretich, the American girl whose mother spent more than two years in jail rather than let her visit her father, is living with her grandparents in New Zealand, police said on Saturday.

Detective chief inspector Roger Carson of Christ-church said the girl has been living with her mother's parents in the city for three years and is in good health.

Curfew imposed on Jhang: The western Punjab city of Jhang was put under indefinite curfew on Saturday following violence on Friday on the assassination of a Sunni leader in which one person was killed and 19 others injured. (Kuna)



Details inside page



Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est.

# Reform drive in Shangrila

## Defies parallels with upheavals anywhere else

KATHMANDU, Feb 24, (Reuter): Nepal, where at least 11 people have died this week in a campaign for multi-party democracy, defies parallels with upheavals anywhere else in the world.

While the people of Eastern Europe have shattered the communist monolith, the people of Shangrila are still requesting their absolute monarch to consider

"He is not Ceausescu," one middle-class moderate said of King Birendra.
He meant that the Eton and Harvard-

educated king is no dictator in the style of Romanian president Nicolae Ceaucescu. executed by firing squad two months ago.

The irreverence of contrasting a Romanian peasant's son with a monarch who ruled by Hindu divine right could

King Birendra, 44, granted the current partyless political system by grace and favour. He is above the constitution and remarks deemed to undermine the monarchy may earn a long jail term.

Politicians, whose parties have been banned for 30 years, have taken the risk and are now in jail, under house arrest or in Their demand is a constitutional mon-

archy. Only one of eight small communist

factions is pressing for a republic. Nepal, closed to the world against the colonialism and industrial revolution of the 19th century, opened its doors to the 20th in 1951.

Many still see the monarchy as the bullwark of a country landlocked by the world's two most populous nations, China

"The troubles in our history have come at times when the king was weak. Nepal takes this very seriously. We must have a strong king," said another well-educated Kathmandu resident.

He went on to hint that the king had obligations rather than divine rights. Most allegations against the palace are

still levelled in a code which blames corruption on the bureaucrats and the shooting of demonstrators on the govern-

This is partly because the mystique surrounding the royal court leaves even diplomats somewhat baffled by the nature and extent of the king's official role of "active leadership."

Communist activist Harish Chandra Acharya was less circumspect. "All the money is going into the coffers of the

princes and princesses," he told reporters, referring to the foreign aid that props up

Nepal's economy.

Lack of popular support for Acharya's ideology has pushed Nepal's communist factions into unprecedented accord with the Nepali Congress Party in the

democracy campaign.

Some diplomats believe there is still scope for King Birendra to divide and rule by winning over Congress Social Democrats to a reformed version of his panchayat system of councils elected from local to national level.

Many in Kathmandu express sympathy for the government's argument that a multi-party system would be vulnerable to foreing influence - Congress from its big brother in India, the communists from

Walls of

**Jericho** 

tumbled

NEW YORK, Feb 24, (AP): The

walk of Jericho did come tum-

bling down as recounted in the Bible, according to an

"When we compare the

archaeological evidence at Jeri-cho with the Biblical narrative

describing the Israelite destruc-

tion of Jericho, we find remarka-

ble agreement," said archaeolog-ist Byrant G. Wood of the Univer-

After studying data from recently published excavation reports of British archaeologist Kathleen Kenyon, Wood wrote in the

March-April issue of the scholarly

journal, Biblical Archaeology Review: "Here is impressive evidence that the walls of Jericho

did indeed topple as the Bible

Kenyon had concluded after her

excavations in the 1950s that the

fortified city was destroyed about

1550 BC, and was no longer there at the time of the Israelite invasion

As a result, for about 30 years,

"scholars by and large have writ-ten off the hiblical record as so

much folklore and religious

However, he said extensive

ceramic remnants and a carbon-

14 sample contradict Kenyon's

dating of the city's fall, and other

evidence converged to support the

"The co-relation between the

As described in Joshua 6,

shua's army marched around

the city for a week, blowing rams'

horns, and on the seventh day,

combined shouting with the pierc-

ing horns, "and the wall fell down

Wood noted that collapsed mud bricks were found outside a thick

lower revetment wall where they

had fallen, and apparently served as a ramp for the Israelites, des-

cribed as going "up" into the city.
Also, the Bible relates the event

occurred after spring harvest, and

that the Israelites burned the city

— both factors confirmed by the

archaeological remains. Wood

He said the siege of the city obviously was short as indicated

by the large amounts of scorched

"The presence of these grain stores in the destroyed city is entirely consistent with the

biblical account," Wood wrote.
"The city did not fall as a result of

a starvation siege, as was so com-

mon in ancient times.
"Instead, the Bible tells us Jeri-

cho was destroyed after but seven

Wood noted that Jericho is

situated in the rift valley, an unsta-

ble region where earthquakes are frequent, and he suggested a quake could have caused both the

archaeological evidence and the

biblical narrative is substantial,"

dated after 1400 BC.

rhetoric," Wood said.

logical study.

down

sity of Torouto:

Pioneer 11 out of solar system: More than a decade after it became the first spacecraft to visit Saturn, Pioneer 11 flew beyond Neptune's orbit and out of the solar system, according to the US space agency and the company that built the probe.

"Pioneer 11 is following in the historic footsteps of

Pioneer 10, one of the spacecraft we are proudest of," Trw Inc. spokeswoman Montye Male said Friday as the probe passed the milestone 2.8 billion miles (4.5 billion kms) from earth. "We wish it a fond farewell."

Neptune is now the outermost planet. Pluto currently is closer to the sun in an elongated, elliptical orbit, part of which extends beyond Neptune's path.

By crossing Neptune's orbit, Pioncer 11 became the fourth spacecraft to leave the solar system, said Peter Waller, spokesman for the National Aeron-autics and Space Administration's Ames Research Centre in Mountain View. (AP)

LA harbour reopens: A blockade of the Los Angeles harbour was lifted after it was determined a chemical leak in the hold of a Taiwanese-flagged cargo ship was not in danger of causing an explosion as feared, authorities said Saturday.

The harbour was reopened about 11.45 pm Friday, 24 hours after the US Coast Guard, fearing an explosion and fire from the chemical leak, shut down a main channel at the port - one of the world's

Crews worked for several hours late Friday unloading 58 containers in the ship's hold, which were inspected for any leaks and neutralised. (UPI)

Captain gets honourable discharge: An air force captain targeted by a spy investigation was honourably discharged Friday and the investiga-tion was closed, the air force announced.

Capt John Vladimir Hirsch was never charged, but was brought back from a West Berlin post to Kelly Air Force base in July because of the probe. Hirsch, an electrical engineer, voluntarily applied to leave the air force and was granted an honourable discharge under an early release programme, Wig-

The case was handled by the air force office of special investigations, Wiggins said. (AP)

30 years in E. Germany: A US Army deserter who spent 30 years in East Germany said Friday he was only there a few weeks before he realised he must try to ecape that country's grim conditions and

danger.
"I feel like I threw 30 years of my life away," Arnold Kephart, 53, said in an interview here at the

Speaking with a heavy German accent, Kephart said the United States he has returned to is. "a different world." He also said he never thought he would see anything like the rapid liberalisation of

When he returned to the United States last month. Kephart was arrested at the airport in front of relatives who had been waiting for the reunion. A week later, the army granted him an other-than-hon-ourable discharge. (AP)

Audit reveals \$27 billion waste: The US Air Force spent \$27 billion more than it said it did on its main fighter and bomber fleets, according to the results of an audit published in the Washington Post on Thursday. The air force also mismanaged its record-keeping so badly that it bought \$18 billion in unneeded

so badly that it bought 518 billion in unneeded equipment, according to the audit.

The newspaper said it got a draft of the investigation, conducted over-three years by more than 400-auditors from the General Accounting Office (GAO), the congressional watchdog agency.

The air force issued a statement in response to the Post article saying it. has serious disagreements with both the contents of the draft report and GAO's bandling of the audit "Resuter) handling of the audit." (Reuter)



With a healthy crew and forecasts for better weather,

Adants commander John O. Creighton, whose sore throat and head congestion was a factor in earlier postponements, is healthy and ready to fly, doctors said Friday. And the four weather that has hung over the Kanady Sorge Coestier.

hung over the Kennedy Space Centre since Thursday was expected to fade away.

Forecasters said there is an 80 per cent chance of a favourable weather for launching Atlantis between midnight (0500 GMT) and 4 am (0900 GMT) today.

Creighton's illness and uncertain weather forced the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to cancel launch attempts on Thursday and Friday. The astronaut recovered in time for a launch early Saturday, but Nasa officials did not even start the countdown after rain, dense leaden clouds and thunderstorms moved into the area on Friday. Picture shows Atlantis waits to launch. (Reuter wire-

#### Couple killed

John Robert Mitchell, a 42-year-old American geologist, poses with his wife Marilou, on their wedding day. The couple, along with Marilou's father, were killed by suspected communist rebels in an ambush in the central Philippine Island of Bohot on Wednesday. President Aquino ordered a speedy investigation of the murders. (Reuter wirephoto)

#### One million to benefit Italy easing immigration law

ROME, Feb 24. (AP) The Chamber of Deputies on Friday approved a bill since it normalising the status of the most than one million Third World inungrants in [12].

The neasure, which passed by 126 votes to 28, now goes to the Senate. The billioning the approved by next. Thirsday or it will expire under the Parliament's proportional deadline. Parliament's procedural deadline.

There are an estimated 1.5 million or more

immigrants in Italy, mostly from Africa and Asia. About one million are considered illegal immigrants who have not registered with auth-

The new law, which applies to immigrants from countries outside the European Economic Community, would legalise the status of those who entered Italy before Dec 31, 1989. These immigrants must register with authorities within six months and prove they are working or study-

ing in Italy.

The measure also would allow anyone facing

persecution anywhere in the world to apply for political refugee status in Italy.

By Oct 30 of each year, the government will be required to set a target for the number of new immigrants allowed to enter the country, taking into even the availability of the exheditor. into account the availability of jobs, schooling

Within four months the government will draw producing nations, whose citizens would need

entry visas to come to Italy.

Until now, many immigrants have entered Italy on tourism visas and stayed illegally.

Under the new law, immigrants who enter the country legally can apply for a visitor's permit on the basis of employment, study or family reasons. The renewable permit is valid for two years.

#### Security alert: Unprecedented security will

surround next week's high court attempt by the British Muslim Action Front to bring the Sazanic Verses author Salman Rushdie and publishers Viking Penguin to trial under the blaspheny laws.

Extra police and security officers will be on duty at the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand, central

London, during the hearing, due to start on Monday, Everyone is expected to be searched before going into the courtroom and the doors leading to the area will not be open while the case is being heard. (Kuna)

Homemade bomb explodes: A 90-pound

(41-kilogramme) homemade bomb packed inside a beer keg partially exploded in the lobby of a county down hotel, but no one was hurt because the building had been evacuated, police said Saturday in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Notice in residue.

Two masked men left the device in the foyer of the Sheve Donard Hotel Friday night and shouted a warning as they left, the Royal Ulster Constabulary

Basques welcome olive branch: Basque politicians said on Saturday that an olive branch held out by the Spanish government to ETA separatist guerrillas was a welcome development.

Herri Batasuna, the party regarded as the political arm of ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom), called it a radical departure from the government's rejection of talks with the guerrillas.

Interior Minister Jose Luis Corcuera said on Friday Spain would be generous with ETA if it stopped violence for at least six months. He made no specific offer to resume talks broken off in Algiers a year ago. (Reuner)

year ago. (Remer) 🗀

Aeroflot charter services: Soviet state carrier Aerollot announced on Friday it would begin operating charter flights from Britain and Ireland next month with first and business class seating and

# Nepal arrests doctor after bullet revelation

#### Opposition parties plan 'black' protest

KATHMANDU, Feb 24, (Agencies): A Nepalese medical professor has been arrested after he alleged that police were using fragmentation bullets against pro-democracy demonstrators.

Family sources said Professor Mathura Shrestha, head of community medicine at Kathmandu's teaching hospital, was arrested at his home late last night.

Earlier Shrestha had helped to organise two protests against the death of at least 11 people this week in clashes between police and protesters demanding open political activity in the Himalayan king-

Shrestha said that all the cases he saw were from the town of Bhaktapur near Kathmandu, where there were major clashes on Monday.

On Friday morning, Shrestha was among teaching hospital staff who held a two-hour protest on the campus against this week's deaths.

Later he had been in a human rights delegation which went to protest to Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha against alleged police excesses and mistreatment of detainces.

Political parties have been banned in Nepal since 1960 but have gone on functioning informally and have achieved unprecedented unity in their campaign for multi-party State-run Radio Nepal war-

ned Nepalis tonight "to be on alert" against destructive activities which it said commun-The democracy campaigners

have called for peaceful demonstrations in the capital Kathmandu to protest against this week's killings. Pamphlets circulated in the

city by banned political parties say that demonstrators will wear black arm bands and carry black flags as a sign of mourning.
The radio's Nepali-language

evening news broadcast, quoting Interior Ministry sources, said the government was aware of plans for disruption "and is determined to deal with them in accordance with the law."

Senior politician Tanka Prasad Acharya, a former prime minister and advocate of legalisation of political parties, yesterday put forward a five-point proposal to solve the present

political crisis.

Acharya called for the formation of a government with opposition representation which will conduct the proposed general elections in April-May 1991.

The proposal says the opposi-tion should be permitted to con-test that election on the basis of their party manifesto and iden-

Should the multi-party advocates win the elections, Parliament will declare a multiparty system of government for the kingdom. Should they lose, a formal opposition bench would



#### He told Western journalists just before his arrest that he had seen two bodies and 14 injured people brought into Kathmandu's main hospital this week, all with fragmentation bullet wounds. He described the bullets as lead-filled with a small hole in the casing, so that they shattered on impact.

Such a type of bullet causes extensive soft tissue damage and multiple organ damage and this is very difficult to repair," he said.
"Sometimes a doctor has to leave some parts of it. If it is left, the person will spend all his life with chronic lead poisoning."

#### **Kashmiris** pray for 'freedom'

(Continued from Page 1)

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry has denied that Pakistan is training and arming the separatists. Last week, Pakistan troops closed one border post to civilians after Indian troops killed several Pakistani students on Feb 11. The students wanted to cross into India in solidarity with the separatists. ....

A Defence Ministry spokesman also said the military would not allow Kashmiris to smuggle weapons across the border, although he acknowledged that the mountainous, 1,400-km (840mile) long border was impossible to patrol effectively.

"We don't care what happens to India and Pakistan," said the Kashmiri president. "We are tired of this situation."

Qayyum, 66, is reputed to have fired the first shot in 1948 that triggered the first war with India over the rugged territory.

"It is our basic commitment to the people across the border to liberate them," Qayyum said. 'We are providing them with all facilities - hospitals, places to stay. As yet we officially are giv-ing them no military aid but as the situation escalates we won't be able to stop it."

A Pakistan army captain in Kashmir said private smugglers currently were moving small arms, especially Chinese-made AK-47 automatic weapons, into India. But officials fear that when the Himalavan mountain passes open in summer, heavier arms will make it into India.

Hundreds of thousands of Muslim separatists in Kashmir prayed today for the success of their independence campaign and three people were killed when troops fired on a group of protesters.

Police said people were killed when troops fired at protesters in Khrew village, 23 km (14 miles) south of Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir



#### Rajiv propped up

Supporters of Rajiv Gandhi hold aloft a cut-out of the former Indian prime minister at an election rally he was addressing in Bombay. Rajiv was on a tour of Bombay and other adjoining states campaigning for his Congress (I) Party in the Feb 27 Indian states assembly elections. (Reuter wirephoto)

## 5 killed in pileup

100 cars involved

FRANKFURT, Feb 24, (AP): At least five people were killed and about 50 injured in a pileup involving more than 100 cars on the main highway between Frankfurt and Munich today, police said.

Police said the pileup was caused by fast driving in foggy conditions. There are usually no speed limits on West German autobahns and deadly pileups are frequent. "There are wrecked cars all

over the place, the injured are

bleeding and screaming. It looks

like a slaughterhouse," said a

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Police said about 20 people

ing the injured.
Rescue vehicles had trouble crowded highway, police said.

nival season.

reaching the area because of the There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the car-

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another

Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg. suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treat-

police spokesman.

#### mbling wall and also temporary blocking of the Jordan river. That is described in Joshua 3:16, allowing the Israelites to cross on land.

"Historians and Bible scholars have focused on the 'miraculous' nature of the event, with little regard for the siesmology of the southern Jordan valley."

## **Waiting for launch**

the US space agency planned an early launch today of the thrice-delayed space shuttle Atlantis and its

#### police officer in Aschaffenburg, full bar service. (Reuter) ust south of Frankfurt. 6 Sri Lankan students linked to JVP

COLOMBO, Feb 24, (Kuna): Seventy-six Sri Lankan school students, comprising 68 boys and eight girls, dressed in their school uniforms, surrendered vesterday accompanied by their parents and school principal, to an army officer in the southern region of the island, according to a government commun-

This incident, which took place in Angunak-olapalessa, 126 miles south of Colombo, followed last week's appeal to all students who have had any connections with the southern Sinhalese militant group — the Janatha Vimukthi Poeramuna (JVP -People's Liberation Front), to surrender to the nearest security force camp.

political lectures held by the JVP. The commanding officer advised the students not to indulge in political activities and disrupt their studies. They were later on handed over to the parents and the principal with a promise that they will take more interest in their studies, the communique states

Cadres of the JVP ambushed a security unit conducting operations in the jungles of Walawgolla. 130 miles of Colombo. A young Lieutenant Deshapriya and an army corporal Permawansa were shot dead, According to a security services has launched an island-wide search to trace the whereabouts of a police detective. Rohitha Priyadharashna was officer-in-charge of the crimes division of a police station Sapugaskanda 10 miles off

According to police sources conducting search operations Priyadharashana a well known crime buster is missing since last week. He had been commended for rounding up armed gangs of others by his superiors. His parents have appealed to the inspector general of police and the secretary for defence to trace their son.

The International Press Institute has protested to the president of Sri Lanka about the abduction and killing of De Zoysa, and urged that the killers be brought to justice, institute director Peter Gallines said yesterday. Galliner said he sent message of protest to

President Ranasinghe Premadasa after the Feb 17 abduction of De Zoysa, Sri Lankan correspondent for the Inter Press Service, an international news

De Zoysa was the victim of a group seeking to embarass the government, Minister of Foreign Affairs Ranjan Wijeratne alleged Thursday.



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# **US custody fight** girl found in NZ

#### Hilary living with her grandparents

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb 24, (AP): Seven-year-old Hilary Foretich, the American girl whose mother spent more than two years in jail rather than let her visit her father, is living with her grandparents in this New

Zealand city, police said today.

Detective chief inspector Roger Carson of Christchurch said the girl has been living with her mother's parents here for three years and is in good health. He said Hilary is the subject of a New Zealand family court order issued yesterday. "As a result of that order Hilary is now in the custody of her grandparents and there will be a further hearing in the family court in Christ-church next week," Carson said. He did not elaborate.

Hilary's mother, Dr Elizabeth Morgan, a plastic surgeon, was jailed for failing to obey a judge's order to produce the child. She accused the father, Dr Eric Foretich, of sexually abusing Hilary.

Foretich, a 46-year-old oral surgeon, had offered a \$50,000 reward to anyone who could find his daughter. He has denied ever abusing the child.

Morgan, 42, was released from jail in Washington, DC, in September after President George Bush signed a law limiting civil contempt in district of Columbia child abuse cases to 12 months.

Columbia child abuse cases to 12 months.

Police here would not confirm reports that both parent were en route to New Zealand.

## Capitol lashes out at lawyers

WASHINGTON, Feb 24, (Renter): White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater hit out at America's lawyers yesterday, saying they 'deserve all the criticism they can get' and that no one hould miss an opportunity to

'blast' lawyers. But some of the 700,000 US lawyers hit back, one saying that 'lawyer-bashing' was a long stan-ding US pastime.

Fitzwater's remarks at a news briefing followed a speech by President George Bush in Baltimore on Thursday in which he unced the increase in medical malpractice lawsuits in the United States. Asked if Bush was criticis-ing lawyers, he said, lawyers certainly deserve all the criticism

Asked if those were the feelings of the president, Fitzwater said. Those are universally held feelings by everyone who has ever dealt with the legal establish-

· Asked why he was 'lawyer-Bishing, Fitzwater, a recent homebuyer perhaps dismayed by legal costs, said: "Oh, I think every one ought to take every opportunity to blast lawyers."

times a year," said Lewis Collens. Dean of Kent College of Law at Illinois Institute of Technology, "Lawyer bashing is one of the longest-standing pastimes in the

"People always feel their own lawyer is competent, able reasonable and just," said American Bar Association President Stan Chauvis. "It's the one on the other side who's the dog — the one with the shifty eyes who asks the mean

Bush told medical experts at Johns Hopkins University that doctors fearing luminist that dictated treatment that was

They said Hilary is believed to have been attending a private Christ-church school while living with her grandparents, who he said are seeking an injunction to prevent Foretich from taking the child out of New

Zealand.

Robert Callard, the US consul in the New Zealand capital of Wellington, said today he knew papers had been filed in Christchurch but was

unsure who had filed them.

Callard said the embassy's only role was to make sure the child is protected and that nobody tries to take her out of the country. He said that if a New Zealand court ordered the embassy not to issue the child a passport, the embassy could comply, but it had not received that instruc-

Morgan and Foretich met in 1981, married in January 1982 and separated in August of that year, about a week before Hilary was born. In 1983, the divorced couple sued

each other for custody of the child. In January 1985, Morgan took legal action to stop Forench's access to Hilary after making the sexual abuse

Morgan's lawyer, Stephen H. Sachs, was quoted in the Washington Post newspaper's Saturday edition as saying, "Elizabeth is going to do whatever she possibly can do to protect her daughter.
"Elizabeth is confident that the

courts of New Zealand will protect Hilary, and Elizabeth will go to New Zealand as soon as (DC Superior Court Judge Herbert B.) Dixon gives her back her passport, which we've requested several times, and we will renew the request on Monday."

Dixon confiscated Morgan's passport before he jailed her in 1987.

A reporter for Radio New Zealand, Jill Gallop, told WRC-TV

in Washington that the girl's identity was revealed when New Zealand authorities checked with US officials to determine if there were any our-standing court orders pertaining to the child. A spokeswoman for a Morgan

support group said the group was upset Hilary had been found. "We hope New Zealand will give the friends of Elizabeth Morgan. There's no reason for her to be sent

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail. In Britain, meanwhile, the Times

of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beech-field College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after her picture was shown on the

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British Broadcasting Corp. TV talk show "Kilroy" late last year. Dr Foretich had appeared on the Shara, Kuwait Near Cinema Hamra show discussing child custody bat-

#### PEOPLE AND PLACES

PARKERSBURG, West Virginia: Police are looking for one or more burglars who sneaked into a Wendy's restaurant for an old-fashioned meal.

"They just broke in the drivethrough window, went in there and fixed themselves some hamburgers and fries, left the deepfry and everything on and left, said Police Chief Russ Miller.

"I guess they wanted them to be ready for business the next day," Miller said.
Nothing else in the restaurant was taken, nor were there any signs of

an attempt to crack the safe, or

break into the cash register. Miller said it appeared to be a quick-fix job and the thieves fried only a couple of hamburgers and an order of fries.

"They don't go to extremes on this," he said. (AP)

BERN: The Swiss Broadcasting Corporation said Thur day that financial problems will force an increase of 20 to 30 per cent as of 1991 in household television and

radio rates.
SBC director-general Autonio
Riva said the situation "is not dramatic but is still serious" and the 1990 budget is being trimmed by one per cent or 8 million Swiss francs (\$5.44 million).

But there will have to be an increase of 20 to 30 per cent in annual cates which currently stand at 281 francs (\$193) per household,

Salaries account for 60 per cent of spending by the state-owned but independent corporation. (UPI)

SYRACUSE, New York: The Bernet Park Zoo, which now boasts two pregnant Asian elephants, is gaining steam as a leader in

gaining steam as a leader in broading endangered species. Bahe, a 7,450-pound (3,380-kg) Asian elephant, is due to give birth in late April or March, and zoo officials reveal that another elephant, Romani, is believed to be five months pregnant.

The pregnancies are significant because the species is considered endangered, and only about four or five Asian elephant pregnancies are achieved in all of North America each year.

For a zoo our size, and only having three females, we're pretty excited about it," said Chack Doyle, "The New York Zoological

senior elephant handler at the zoo. Society had an elephant born in 1980 or 1981. This would be only the second and the third (in the state) since the days of the mastodons," he said. (UPI)



#### Burn paintings to protest brutality

An Athens University art student looks at her burncalled police brutality against student demoning paintings on Feb 21, in central Athens. Art students set their works on fire to protest what they

Groundhog Day. He was seized in a live trap after three weeks of living

weather-forecasting groundhog named Arnold who escaped after predicting an early spring was captured while looking for food near the original site of his zoo Arnold bolted from the Henson

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois: A

Robinson Zoo moments after he failed to see his shadow and predicted an early spring on

on the land, said zoo director Mike

VATICAN CTTY: The Vaticas plans an exhibition, an international symposium and books to mark the completion of the restoration of Michelangelo's Sisting Chapel ceiling frescoes.

The Vatican said on Thursday an exhibition would open on March 25, the end of a 10-year project which cleaned and restored the Renaissance artist's l6th-century

strators over the last few years. (Reuter wirephoto)

Later this year, restorers will tackle the Last Judgement, the 160 square metre (1,800 square feet) fresco on the altar wall which took



Wahat Al Shara

Mughal

carry away

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to His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and the People of Kuwait on the occasion of the 29th National Day

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## Gen. Gavin dies **World War II veteran**

Thirteen-year-old Iwona poses with her one-year-old daughter,

Agniezska for photographers on Feb 23. Iwona, who goes to the 9th

Form in a small village near Jelena, Gora, is the youngest mother in

Poland. (Reuter wirephoto)

WASHINGTON, Feb 24, (AP): Retired Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin, the "jumping general" of airborne troops in World War II and an early critic of the Vietnam war, died yesterday, the Defence Department said last night.

Youngest mom

Spokesman Maj. Bill O'Con-nell said Gavin, 82, died at a nursing home in the Baltimore O'Connell said he had no fur-

ther details. Gavin served with the 82nd airborne division and jumped with the troops in Sicily, the Normandy Invasion and, as its Commander, at Nijmegen in the Netherlands in the American contribution to the ill-fated "bridge too far" allied assault to

expel the Germans from the Netherlands in September 1944. Known for accompanying patrols with a carbine on the front lines, Gavin wore the two stars of a major general when he was 37, one of the youngest men ever to hold the rank.

Gavin served as ambassador to France twice under President John F. Kennedy and later was chairman of Arthur D. Little Co, the Cambridge, Massachusettsbased management consulting

firm. Born in New York City, he enlisted in the army in 1924 and won appointment to the US Army Military Academy at West Point the following year, where he would arise at 4.am to get in extra studing time in the latrine. He was commissioned a second licutenant in 1929.

In the war, he won the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, the distinguished Service Cross; and was awarded the distinguished Service Order by Britain and the Croix de Guerre and the Legion of Honour by France.

Gavin was head of research and development for the army in 1958 when he retired at a relatively young 51 — still with 30 years in — to be able to critise then-President Dwight Eisenhower's "more bang for the buck" defence policy, which believed placed dangerously excessive reliance on nuclear weapons and slighted conventional forces.

"I won't compromise my principles and I won't go along with the Pentagon system," Gavin said on his retirement.

Balladeer not expected to live

## Johnnie Ray in coma

LOS ANGELES, Feb 24, (AP): Fifties balladeer Johnnie Ray, known as the "Prince of Wails" for his vocal histrionics on such songs as "Somebody Stole My Gal". "Just Walkin" in the Rain, "was in a coma yesterday with liver failure.

Ray, 63, was not expected to live, according to a statement issued late Thursday by Alan Eichler Associates, a public relations firm.

Ray, whose condition deteriorated steadily since he entered Cerdars-Smail Medical Centre Feb 16, slipped into a coma Thursday with total liver failure, said hospital spokesman Rou Wise. The spokesman described his condition as

The once slender, boyish singer was credited with revolutionising popular music in the early 1950s with his unique blend of rhythm and blues, country and gospel punctuated with real-sounding sobs.

Some said his raw and emotional style opened the door to a new type of music that later became Rock 'n' Roll. Ray's first hit record was "Cry," followed by "The Little White Cloud That Cried," "Please Mr. Sun," Brokenhearted," "What's The Use," "Somebody Stole My Gal," "Who's Sorry Now," and "Yes Tonight Josephine."

Ray was also a movie actor, and Co-starred with Ethel Merman, Dan Dailey,

Marilyn Monroe, Donald O'Connor and Mitzi Gaynor in "There's No Busi



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# UN goals set to fight drugs

#### 'Funding is scarce'

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 24, (Agencies): Reflecting a sense of urgency in the war against drugs, the international community put the narcotics menace high on the world's agenda but failed to say where the money would come from

After a four-day special session by some 50 cabinet-rank ministers, the UN General Assembly yesterday adopted an ambitious plan designed to tackle every phase of the \$500 billion international drug trade.

"We resolve to protect mankind from the scourge of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs

and psychotrophic substances," the six-page declaration says. The plan's recommendations to governments and international bodies cover all aspects of the drug trade: cultivation of the coca and poppy fields that provide the raw material for cocaine and heroin, processing, trafficking, demand, money laundering and the rehabilitation of addicts.



Mourners thronged charges to pay their last respects to Duarte (shown



Duarters shown in his hospital bed as he is visited by the then-president Ronald Reagan and vice-president George Bush. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Salvadorans mourn Duarte

#### Funeral today

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, Feb 24. (AP): Hundreds of mour-ners, many of them poor, thronged to a church to pay their last respects to former President Jose Napoleon Duarte, who struggled to bring democracy to El Salvador but was unable to stop its prolonged civil war. Duarte died at his home vesterday after a long battle with cancer. He

Two of Duarte's six children. Alejandro and Napolean, accompanied by leaders of his Christian Democratic Party, carried his flagdraped coffin to the Don Rua church in the densely populated, blue collar San Miguelito neighbourhood in northeastern San Salvador.

Military school cadets escorted the

About 500 mourners, many carry-ing flowers, awaited them at the church, where his body was to lie in state until his funeral on tomorrow. Tentative plans were for a mass to be celebrated at the same church, followed by burnal at the Gardens of

Memory cementary.

Hundreds of mourners outside the church blocked streets and police cordened off the area from traffic. Many who arrived early were women

from the city's public markets. "Duarte was everthing for us, the women of the markets, for all the poor In our hearts, engineer Duarte has not died For us he will live forever." said one woman trying to reach the coffin. She asked not to be

US and regional leaders praised Duarte's dedication to democracy. "President Duarte was the father of Salvadoran democracy, a dedicated servant to the people of El Salvador, and a firm friend of the United States," US president spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said from Washington.

The White House said Vice President Dan Qualyle will lead the Us delegation at Duarte's funeral.

US Secretary of State James Baker said, "there could be no more litting tribute to his memory than for his countrymen to follow his lead and to ensure that human rights and democratic institutions grow and strengthen in the country be loved so deeply and to which he gave so much."

Duarte was born in San Salvador Nov 23, 1925, the second of three sons of a tailor father and dress.

maker mother.

He graduated in 1948 from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, with a degree in Civil engineering, married childhood friend Ines Duran, and worked in her family's construction business.

A founder of the Christian Democratic party, he served three terms as mayor of San Salvador. He was winning the presidential election in February 1972 when the army stopped the count and declared its candidate the winner.

He was arrested, beaten and told he would be shot after he supported a failed coup attempt a few week's later.

#### Voters in a position to decide, say observers

# Fair Nicaragua polls seen Br

MANAGUA, Feb 24, (AP): Key international observers say it appears Sunday's election will be free and fair, despite problems during the often-bitter campaign between the Sandinistas and an opposition coali-

"I've given a lot of thought to how the system could be beat," said Elliott Richardson, head of the United Nations observer mission. "I haven't yet been able to come up with a good scheme.

A UN report he released yesterday concludes that Nicaragua's 1.75 million registered voters "are in a position to decide between alternative which have been given a reasonable chance to be aired."

The campaign was not without roblems, the report said, but it "has changed the way elections are per-ceived ... by redefining and considerably broadening the limits of political action in Nicaragua."

The United Nations is env-

Nowhere is the cost of the

Resources

But at the moment there are

only \$4 million allocated in

annual UN budget, plus another

"Like most of you I was struck

by the limited resources provided

for UN agencies involved in these matters," Assembly

president Joseph Garba said in

his closing remarks.

Margaret Anstee, the British under-secretary general in charge of all UN drug activities.

told a news conference the world

body did not have enough funds

to fulfil its current mandates on

Forthcoming discussions in UN financial bodies "will be

extremely important and for my

money an indication of whether

we really are being serious about

this fight and the pivotal role of

Goals

Italian jurist Giuseppe di Gen naro, told reporters that the world community had identified

goals but once again failed to set

priorities of "where we go first,

vhere we hit first, who has to do

this, when, how and with what

He believes field programmes,

particularly in the remote Gol-

den Triangle and Golden Crescent poppy growing areas of Asia as well as the Andes coca crop

regions in Latin America, needed

assistance for the rest of the

world but we have to start some-

where," he said, estimating that

90 per cent of the world's drug

problems were connected to

The session was held at the initiative of Colombia whose

government is under attack by

murderous drug gangs.
The political declaration pro-

claims the period from 1991 to the year 2000 as the UN decade

against drug abuse, to be devoted

to national, regional and inter-

national programmes.
This includes a possible shake-

up in the UN's three drug-fight-

ing agencies together with

proposals for allocating more money and staff and greater use of the world body as a clearing house for information and tech-

The so-called "global programme of action" called first for states to give "higher priority" to prevent and reduce drug abuse "with a view to

eliminate the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotro-phic substances" at the national

as well as international levels.

The United Nations should

act as an "advisory centre" for

the collection, analysis and dis-

semination of information and

experience in the field of demand

Most UN specialised agencies, including the UN Children's Fund, the UN Development

Programme, the World Health

Organisation and the Inter-

national Labour Organisation,

are asked to get involved in infor-

mation and educational

nical assistance.

reduction.

what happened in this areas. Initiative

"This doesn't mean lack of

\$9 billion to be effective.

And the head-of-UNFDAC

the United Nations," she said.

drug projects.

The Organisation of American States reached similar conclusions about the possibility of a fair election on Sunday, as did former US President Jimmy Carter, another prominent observer.

Carter is heading up a group of observers that includes five US senators and seven house members, three former US state governors, a prime minister and five former sidents from other count "We will observe but only Nicaraguans can vote," Carter said,

reading a statement in heavily accen-ted Spanish. "Choose well, and we will work to ensure that the results reflect your decisions and are respec-

President Daniel Ortega's main challanger is publisher Violeta Barrios de Chamorro of the United National Opposition, a coalition of 14 parties and one native Indian Carter, who observed the Panamanian election last year and announced the voting was marred by fraud while the ballots were still

being counted, is regarded as one of the most influential observers. His delegation is working closely with both the OAS and the United Nations, which among them are fiel-

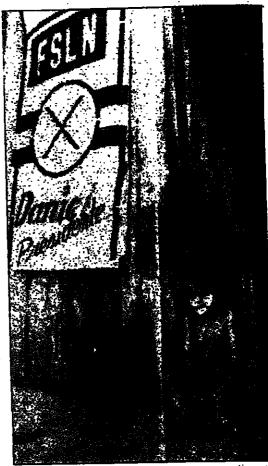
ding more than 700 observers.
"We will monitor every step of the process and do parallel tabulations of the vote to guarantee that the final results reflect the will of the people," Carter said after arriving in Nicaragua yesterday.

The leftist Sandinistas expect to win the election and they hope an internationally recognised victory will lead to an end to the US economic embargo and US support for the Nicaraguan rebels, known as

The verdict of the observers from Carter's Atlanta-based Council of



Nicaraguan opposition presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro (right). greets former US president Jimmy Carter at her home. (Reuter wire photo)



Four-year-old Carlitos Solis Lopez sits with his puppy outside his house decorated with the Sandinista poster. (Reuter wirephoto)

observers, but Managua denied them entry on the

grounds that they represented a government that supports the opposition.

The leader of Nicaragua's rebel military forces

predicts the nation's Sandinista government will

emain in control no matter what the outcome of

face difficulty overcoming "an armed party," as Israel Galeano called the Sandinistas.

The opposition coalition UNO is given little hope of custing the 11-year-old Sandinista govern-ment, but even with an upset victory UNO would

## US goes slow on Nicaragua ties Lugar was named by President George Bush to head a bipartisan congressional team of election

centre's observation efforts at tomorrow's election

In addition, Weinstein said the government has

barred observers from the centre from going in and

out of precincts to watch the vote count; has denied

visas for additional staff members in the centre's

Managua office and has denied visas for two dozen

US democratic and republican political leaders to

join its monitoring operation.

More than 1,000 international election observers have flooded the country.

the Philippines and has been in Nicaragua since

April at the invitation of both the Sandinista gover-

The centre monitored elections in Panama and

WASHINGTON, Feb 24, (AP): The White House was urged yesterday to "go slow" on normalising relations with Nicaragua in the event of a Sandinista victory, with two prominent observers citing the possibility for fraud in tomorrow's election.

US Sen. Richard Lugar and Allen Weinstein, president of the independent monitoring organisaion called the Centre for Democracy, said Nicaragua is issuing a teletype system to transmit voting results that opens opportunities for the San-

dinistas to engage in fraud.

Weinstein also complained that the leftist Sandinista government has blocked delegations from Honduras and Costa Rica that were to join the

said an honest election could pave the Freely Elected Heads of Government and its heavy contingent of members of Congress is considered crucial to a change in attitude by the

administration of US President

way to a new US policy on

"If the election is free and fair and if the Nicaraguan government ceases any further attempt to export revolu-tion and stir up trouble in El

ent and the main political opposition group. Salvador, then I think the American nt should honour the will of the Nicaraguan people and move toward improving economic relations and diplomatic relations and, hopefully, we can move into a new chapter in US-Nicaraguan rela-

The Nicaraguan government has previously said it is not supplying weapons to the leftist guerrillas fight-ing to topple the US-backed governned a regional accord pledging not to

ent in El Salvador. Ortega has sig-

Police chief Carmelo Rolon told

the government news agency Telam that a dozen false alarms

were called in beforehand with

the apparent intent a dispersing

Twenty people were arrested, including six children and four women, Telam reported, and

quick police action stopped

another attempting looting

In a separate incident, about

50 people looted a food store in San Miguel de Tucuman, capital

of that northcentral province, the news agency Diarios Y

The raids are an apparent reaction to runaway inflation, which

rose 79.2 per cent in the month of

January alone.
President Carlos Menem said
in a news conference Friday that

Noticias reported.

his forces.

nearby.

Copters crash in thunderstorm

Congressman Jim Slattery of Kan

## 11 US soldiers die in Panama

WASHINGTON, Feb 24, (UPI): Eleven US soldiers on a night training mission in Panama were killed when their two helicopters crashed during heavy thunderstorms, the Pentagon said yesterday. It was the deadliest US army

accident in two years.

The two helicopters disappeared Wednesday when they and two others on a night training mission ran into severe thunderstorms and turned to return to base at Fort Kobbe, said a Pentagon spokeswoman, Army Maj. Kathy Wood.
The wreckage of the first helicopter, an OH-58 observation craft, was found Thursday near Punta Diego, about
50 miles (80 km) southeast of Colon and the Atlantic
entrance to the Panama Canal. The two men aboard were

They were identified as the pilot, warrant officer James

Carl, who was assigned to Fort Kobbe as part of the US Southern Command in Panama, and Capt. Richard Tyndall of the 7th infantry division from Fort Ord, California.

Yesterday searches found the wreckage of the second helicopter, a UH-1H troop-carrying "Huey" in dense jungle a few miles southwest of the first helicopter, Wood

"There were nine people aboard, no survivors," Wood said. They included four crew members and five passengers — all US soldiers. Identities of the second group were not being released

pending notification of relatives.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, Wood said, although early indications were that the helicopters went down separately in bad weather.

## A STANS IN BRIEF

Soviet planes intercepted: Florida air national guard fighter jets have scrambled four times in the last two weeks to intercept Soviet spy planes flying off the north Florida coast, according to air

guard members in Jacksonville, Florida.

The latest incident took place Tuesday, when two
Soviet TU-95 Bear reconnaissance bombers were
seen just off the coast, flying within 90 miles (145 km)

of US air space.

Officials for the 125th fighter group based at Jacksonville international airport said the incidents are the first since March 1988.

"We don't want to get the public alarmed," said Maj Craig R. McKinley, air operations officer for the interceptor group. He said they were not flying over land. (UPI)

Rebels step up attacks: Rebels stepped up attacks against army positions around El Salvador, killing six government soldiers and wounding another six, the army said Friday.

Urban guertilla squads carried out at least five simultaneous attacks on army positions in San Salvdor, killing six, and raided a town seven miles (11.2 kilometres) to the north, injuring another six, the army said in a statement.

The clandestine radio Venceremos, official station for the leftig energilla Farahundo Marti National

for the leftist guerrilla Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, said the actions are part of a new offensive calling for "all the people to fight against the politics of hunger of the Arena government."

Arena is the conservative nationalist Republican Alliance Party headed by Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani. (AP)

Final charges dropped: The remaining federal indictments against three men who were already cleared of charges that they illegally armed and trained the Nicaraguan rebels have been dismissed, a defence attorney said in Miami.

Charges involving weapons or passport violations were dropped against former mercenary Jack Terrell,



Anti-Castro slogan

ACuban youth shouts anti-Castro slogans as a boxing official (right) tries to restrain him on Feb 22, during the boxing World Cup held in Havana. The youth was booed by the crowd for his actions. (Reuter wirephoto)

former civilian material assistance activist Jose Contin and Rene Corvo, an opponent of Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

"It's the first clear victory for the whistleblowers in

this whole affair," said Terrell's attorney, John Mat-tes, describing on Friday the decision to drop the

The three and 10 other people were indicted by a federal grand jury in 1988 on charges of violating the US neutrality act for allegedly assisting the Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras, in 1984 and 1985.

# **Buenos Aires** Venezuela riots subside

BUENOS AIRES, Feb 24. (Agencies): A group of between 30 and 40 people sacked a super-market in the Buenos Aires suburb of Jose Carlos Paz yesterday, the latest in an outbreak of sporadic lootings touched off by rising prices.

Carlos Alvarez, minister of.

government for the province of Buenos Aires, said the assailants forced their way into the store at around 3 a.m and hauled off food, a cash register, and a scale.

At the same hour eight persons were arrested on the sidewalk outside a supermarket in the Buenos Aires suburb of Moron as they left the building carrying stolen foodstuffs. Alvarez said.

In separate predawn bombings early Friday, a branch of the Citibank in the Buenos Aires suburb of Lomas de Zamora a meatpacking plant in the capital

were damaged.

The bombs blew out windows of nearby buildings as well as those of the targets. The Argentine private news

agency Noticias Argentinas said they picked up a statement at a phone booth, following an anonymous phone call, attributing the blasts to a previously unknown 'Che Guevara Brigade.'

The statement, according Noticas Argentinas, said the two building were targeted because they belonged to businesses 'responsible for the situation of the country,' meaning the economic crisis and hyperinflation.

Since Monday supermarkets and smaller food shops have been looted sporadically in the cities of Cordoba, Rosario, and

in greater Buenos Aires area. In Santa Fe, 500 km (300 miles) north of the capital, about 50 people sacked a grocery store.

the situation is under control.' He warned, however, that hunger is hitting the Argentine community and making it desperate."

He said 'agitators were contributing to the looting.'

Provincial towns that had reported student riots earlier in the week were calm yesterday as Venezuelans prepared for a fourday carnival despite the threat of renewed violence.

Students leaders at Caracas's Central University said that they had no protests prepared during the carnaval period, lasting through next Tuesday, traditionally, a period for family holidays in the country.

Earlier in the week, students in at least seven provincial cities burnt tires and ransacked trucks to protest economic conditions, namely a planned rise in gasoline

## Mulroney shakes up cabinet in a bid to stem party's slumping popularity

OTTAWA, Feb 24, (AP): Prime Minister Brian Mulroney made 15 changes to his cabinet yesterday several aimed at bolstering the popularity of his party that has an all-time low in public-opinion

Mulroney promoted parliament member Kim Campbell of Vancouver to the senior job of justice minister and made her political minister for British Columbia. Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard was named political minister for Quebec, where he is

one of Mulroney's star players. Recent public opinion surveys have shown the

Conservative government with the lowest level of popularity of any government since World War II.
Gallup poll results this week showed the Mulroney government with 19 per cent of support from decided respondents compared with 47 per cent for

the Liberals and 27 per cent for the New Democrats. The results, based on 1,003 interviews conducted Feb 7-10, have a margin of error of plus or minus

four percentage points.

After the traditional swearing-in ceremony at Rideau Hall, presided over by new Gov. Gen. Ray Hnatyshyn, the new justice minister said the change

boosts British Columbia's profile in the cabinet.

"I'm absolutely thrilled and I understand that I'm the first woman in Canadian history to be named minister of justice and attorney general," said Campbell, 42, standing in a green down jacket amid a steady snowfall

"I think certainly it is a remarable gesture toward British Columbia which will now have two ministers sitting on the planning and priorities committee, she added, referring to Mulroney's inner cabinet of senior ministers.

lu other appointments, Mulroney removed transport from justice.

embattled Tom Siddon, another British Columbian, from the fisheries portfolio and replaced him with Bernard Valcourt of New Brunswick. Convicted last summer of impaired driving after a nearfatal motorcycle accident. Valcourt resigned from the cabinet and spent six months as Backbencher.

Valcourt, 38, who appeared tanned and rested after a southern vacation, will also share the job of political minister for New Brunswick with veterans.

Affairs Minister Gerald Merrithew. Toronto MP Doug Lewis, 51, was shifted to

## Trying to recreate the drink of ancient Egypt

# Brewers seek Pharaoh's beer secret over role

LONDON, Feb 24, (AP): British brewers and archaelogists are trying to rediscover the secrets of a lost art from one of the world's first civilizations — beer making in

ancient Egypt.

News of the three-year project, launched by a leading British brewery and the nation's prestigious Egypt Exploration Society, drew tantalizing headlines in Lon-

said one. "Explorers seek the recipe for Tutankhamen's beer," boasted another. The independent called it one of the first

mercial British company.

When the constitue ents of the beer have been determined and other information about it amassed, the brewery will try to reproduce it at its laboratory in the Scottish

capital Edinburgh.

But Jim Merrington, corporate affairs director for Scottish and Newcastle Breweries Plc, told a news conference Thursday. sday in Edinburgh: "It is highly improbable it will appear on the bar (in British pubs) but it is not beyond the realms of posHe said the project will be based largely on archaeological excavations at Tell-El Amarna, one of Egypt's ancient capitals 190 miles (300 km) south of Cairo.

Archaeologists from the society led by its field director, Barry Kemp of Cambridge University, are investigating a royal brewery there attached to a temple built by

She was the leading wife of King Tutank-hamen's father, the Pharaoh Akhnaton, or Akhenaten or Ikhnaton as his name is

Tutankhamen reigned from 1360 to 1350
BC. His tomb was discovered in the Valley
of the Kings at Luxor in 1922. His solid gold
coffin and other fabulous treasures found inside captured the imagination of the

Merrington said Nefertiu's temple, each side of which measures 250 yards (228 m), had its own brewery and bakery for making peer and bread for religious festivals. Both

processes employ yeast.

But it is not known what the beer tasted like. Ancient texts and wall paintings sug-

gest there were several different beers, rang-ing from thick gruelly ales to those of a finer

Wall paintings from Tutankhamen's day depict courtiers vomiting after setting drunk on beer. Another wall painting shows Nefertiti pouring her beer through a strainer to remove lumps of gruel.

Merrington said Scottish and Newcastle's own scientists would subject minute traces of the beer the team hopes to find to chemical testing to try to ascertain its taste examine ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. tomb models and written material for clues to making the been

Kemp told the Edinburgh news con-lerence on Thursday: "The (Egyptian) pyramids were built (by the labourers) on a dict of bread and beer, with bakeries and breweries operating together. The ancient Egyptians baked a kind of bread first, then used it as a mash from which to brew the

# Conflict of Mary

WASHINGTON, Feb 24, (UPI): Lutheran and Catholic theologians said yesterday they remain sharply split over praying to the Virgin Mary and the saints, although seven years of talks on the emotional issue did

of talks on the emotional issue did yield some progress.
"It has been a long and difficult found," said Archbishop William Stafford of Denver, Colorado, who chaired the Catholic side of the theological dialogue, "We addressed some neuralgic (painful) doctrinal differences that will not be easily resolved."

The 20-member group issued a 223-page report, "the one mediator, the saints and Mary," summing up the agreements and commung di-agreements of the eighth round of the official US Catholic theological

The talks are aimed at assessing the possibility of unifying the two faiths, which split in the early 16th century

Of all of the joint dialogues bet-ween Catholics and Lutherans since the second Vatican council ended 25 years ago, the discussion of Mary and the saints reaches deepest into the piety and worship styles of the grass roots of the two dominations.

While acknowledging some progress was made in understanding the divisions in the honour and piety due Mary and the saints, as well as whether they can be invoked as meditors or intercessors in prayer. the church leaders and theologians said "substantive" differences

In 1854. Pope Pius IX declared as a basic article of faith the Immaculate Conception — the idea Mary was born without the taint of the original sin of Adam and Eve. In 1950, Pope Pius XII declared the American Conception of the Original State of the American Conception of the Pius XII declared the American Conception of the Conception of the American Conception of the C Pius XII declared the Assumption of Mary — the belief Mary did not die as other mortals do, but "was assumed body and soul into the glory of heave."

The theologians also said they could reach agreement "on the sub-stantive issue whether invocation of saints is legitimate and beneficial."
While Catholics often direct prayers to the saints, asking their intercessio with God, Lutherans believe Christ is

the only channel to God

On that point, the statement said, "Catholics deny that the practice (of praying to the saints) in and of itself is idolatrous or injurious to the honour of Christ the one mediator, even though the practice must be protected against abuse."



Bathers take advantage of unseasonally warm weather in France to take a quick swim in the Atlantic Ocean

# Spring has sprung

LONDON, Feb 24, (AP): Daffodils are blooming and fruit trees are bud-ding as England enjoys the warmest February since the American revolution, and the fifth-warmest winter on

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Yesterday's high of 18.5 degrees centigrade (65 Fahrenheit) tied a record for the date, and the colder temperature all winter was 2,8 degrees C (37 F) on New Year's day.

"If you ask me if there is a greenhouse effect - it hasn't been proved to my satisfaction, but if this is what it's like, then I'm all for it," said Ken Graves, secretary of the Royal National Rose Society.
Outside Graves' office in the quiet

cathedral town of St Albans, 20 miles (30 kilometres) north of London, buds are forming on a climbing tea rose and on a Gloire de Dijon rose, and a bit of colour is already pecking

through.

Those who believe that global warming has arrived will note that last winter was even warmer in England. Sceptics might note that the winter of 1686 was just as warm, and that Thursday's high temperature was matched in 1961.

The average temperature in central England this month has been 7.5 degrees C (45 F), 4 degrees C (7 F) warmer than normal and the hottes February since 1779, when the average was 7.9 C (46 F).

There have been but four warmer winters since England started keeping records in 1659, said Barry Parker of the meteorological office. This winter's average temperature of 6.3 degrees C (43 F) since Dec 1 has been exceeded only in 1834, 1869, 1975 and 1989.

"I would much prefer a good hard frost for several days," Parker said. "There will be plagues of things going around my garden in sum-mer." Warm winters have brought a garden pest population boom.

The mild winter has thrown the seasons out of sequence. Daffodils are already blooming in some gar-"There are some varieties flowering rather precociously," said Jim Pearce, president of the Daffodil

"There's a variety named 'February gold' — I think it was rather optimistically named, because

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16 years for drunken-driving

CARROLLTON, Kentucky, Feb 24, (AP): A man convicted of killing 27 people in the nation's worst drunken-driving accident has been sentenced to 16 years in prison. He could be eligible for parole in eight years.

Carroll county circuit judge Charles Satterwhite denied yesterday a defence

motion to place Larry Mahoney on probation, and instead imposed the

sentence recommended by the jury that convicted Mahoney on Dec 21.

As Mahoney's relatives wept, Satterwhite said the community wouldn't stand
for probation in such a serious crime. Probation, he said, would "unduly
depreciate the seriousness of the offence... the number of lives lost."

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Linked to carbon dioxide

## Global warming

NEW YORK, Feb 24, (AP): Global warming over the past 30 years is almost certainly related to buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, as one might expect if the greenhouse effect were responsible, a statistical analysis says.

But the study cannot prove that the gas buildup caused the warming researchers cautioned.

Many scientists are concerned that continued buildup of carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere may lead to global warming that could alter climates. The atmospheric process is known as the But researchers disagree over whether gas buildup has caused any

detectable warming yet.

The new statistical analysis is presented in Thursday's issue of the British journal Nature by Cynthia Kuo, Craig Lindberg and David Thomson of AT and T Bell Labs in Murray Hill, New Jersey. Their work used observations of atmospheric carbon dioxide con-

centrations taken monthly since 1958 at the summit of Mauna Loa in Hawaii. The values are typical of measurements made at several sites, the researchers said.

The compared the concentrations to monthly averages of global temperature from 1958 to 1988 and found a strong statistical relationship between short-term fluctuations in the two trends. The chance of such a relationship arising simply by chance is only

about 2 in 1 million, the researchers said. That means "there is probably some physical link" between the two trends but "there's no way to say which is causing which." Lindberg said in an interview.

be causing both observed trends, he said. The analysis found that changes in carbon dioxide concentrations lagged behind those in temperature by five months.

Some third factor, such as increased energy output from the sun, may

this is only the second time anyone can remember it flowering in February," he said in a telephone interview from his home in Colchester in eastern England.

Warm weather may be a problem for some of the hundreds of flower shows held around the country, usually in April, Pearce said. "If they are entirely daffodils, they're not on a safety streak, are they?"

The Royal Horticultural Society

has an early show April 3-4, and its main daffodil show on April 25.

Rome registered its warmest February day in more than 200 years yesterday and the premature spring extended over most of the peninsula, including Alpine region.

A spokesman for the air force meteorogical service said the maximum temperature in Rome vesterday hit 23 degrees centigrade (73.5 F). This was even higher than the 21 C (70 F) registered Thursday which a Rome observatory said was the highest February temperature since 1782.

Temperatures in Switzerland rose to a record high for February 21 degrees centigrade (70 F) in the shade

in Switzerland on Thursday. Weather officials said it was even 11 degrees (52 F) at 2,000 metres (6,560 feet).

Snow was fast melting on ski slopes, the majority of which only opened last week because of lack of any earlier significant snowfalls.

#### Fag-free-flight from today in US

WASHINGTON, Feb 24, (Reuter); Smoking will be banned on virtually all US domestic airline flights beginung on Sunday when a law passed by Congress last year goes into effect.
The law bars smoking on all flights

of under six hours within the United States, including Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Smoking will be allowed only on flights between Hawaii or Alaska and the other 48 states that are six

hours or longer - about two dozen out of nearly 18,000 daily domestic Some of these flights will also be made non-domestic runs by the airlines that fly them.

The law does not apply to inter-national routes but many US airlines are voluntarily extending the smoking ban on flights between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean. Flights Canada are already smoke-

#### gene therapy to

BETHESDA, Maryland, Feb 24, (UPI): Scientists sought permission yesterday for the first attempt at suman gene therapy — research that will involve children stricken by a rare, inherited immune disorder that has forced

Human

be tried

some to live in plastic bubbles. In a proposal filed with federal review committees, National Institutes of Health Researchers said they want to correct the children's illness, caused by the failure of a defective gene to make a vital enzyme, by inserting correct copies of the gene into their white

If approved by the review panels and the Food and Drug Administration, the gene therapy effort headed by Drs W. French Anderson and Michael Blaese could

begin this summer.

The project would mark the first time researchers have transferred a gene into a human in hopes of treating a disease. Another NIH researcher, Dr Steven Rosenberg, is currently transferring foreign genes into humans to track the effectiveness of an experimental cancer therapy, but those genes are not used for treatment.

The disease targeted for the first human gene therapy trial is a severe immunodeficiency caused by the lack of an enzyme called Adenosine Deaminase (ADA). The enzyme shortage leads to destruction of the immune system and in the past some affected. youngsters were forced to live in sterile, plastic bubbles to shelter them from infectious microbes.

Now, most children with the disorder either receive weekly injections of the missing enzyme or undergo bone marrow transplants. Neither treatment is per-fect, and the children's lives are still often shortened by infections.

In their request, Anderson and Blaese propose to use a crippled mouse virus to insert the ADA gene into a type of white blood cell, called T-cells, that have been removed from the child's body and been stimulated to multiply.

Once the new gene is in place, the cells would be returned to the children by blood transfusion, where it is hoped they would produce a steady supply of the missing enzyme. Because T-cells usually do not live more than a few months, patients would probably have to receive repeat infusions of genetically engineered cells.

An outspoken critic of genetic experiments, Jeremy Rifkin of the Foundation of Economic Trends said, "I think this is an ideal opportunity to raise the larger and ethical social issues around gen-

"We have long said that when we get to the point of the first human gene experiment, there has to be a spirited public discussion. We need to figure out how to properly regulate this in the long

Rifkin voiced no immediate objections to the NIH researchers plan, noting it does not involve one of his major concerns - genetic tinkering with human eggs or

#### Dracunculiasis

The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported yesterday its adoption together with 23 most affected African and Asian comtries of a programme to eradicate the water-borne parasitic disease of dracunculies WHO said the programme

defines criteria for certified elimination of the affliction, country by country, by the year 2000.

Also called guinea-worm or medina-worm disease, dracunculiasis affects an estimated 5 to 10 million people in remote rural areas and is spread by water contaminated with a small crustacean

known as cyclops. About one year later, adult worms up to one metre long emerge through the skin and victims often are unable to walk, work or go to school.

"Fortunately, transmission of this disease can be prevented relatively easily, by motivating inhabitants of endemic regions to filter their drinking water through a clean cloth or to boil it before nse," WHO said.

#### **Medical file**

Refocus of health efforts urged: One quarter of all adults who die of avoidable diseases are killed by turberculosis, which is gaining ground again because of its interaction with the AIDS virus. It was reported in Stockholm, Sweden.

Drugs are a bigger problem in Third World countries than in the West.

Twenty-eight per cent of all cigarettes consumed in the world are smoked in China. In the industrial countries, one death in 10 can be traced to smoking. These and other findings about health issues were

These and other findings about health issues were in a report released Friday after a two-year study by an international commission that recommends global emphasis on health research be shifted to the Third World.

The commission, headed by Rockefeller Founda-tion Chairman John R. Evans of Canada, included eight experts from developing countries. Swedish Nobel laureate Sune Bergstrom and former Japanese

"We have found a gross mismatch between the burden of illness, which is overwhelmingly focused on the health problems of the industrialised countries," concluded the \$1.5-million study. The commission claimed independence from any

international agency and was created by its 16 spon-sors, which included private foundations as well as

the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

The report said only 5 per cent of the \$30 billion allocated annually on health research is spent in the Third World, while most premature deaths — 93 per cent if measured in potential years of life lost — wen in developing countries. (AP)

L-tryptophan manufacturers sued: A woman who became paralysed after taking the dietary supplement L-tryptophan has filed suit against two manufacturers and the health food store where she purchased it, her lawyer said Friday in

Trenton, New Jersey.

Nancy Dickson, 57, is now a patient at Thomas
Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia, lawyer Steven
Blader said. She is seeking damages for her medical
expenses and pain and suffering, while her husband, Harry, 58, has sued for loss of consortium.
L-tryptophan, a naturally occurring amino acid

that is used as a tranquiliser for insomnia and pre-menstrual syndrome, has been implicated in an out-break of a rare blood disease, eosinophilia-myalgia

Dickson was diagnosed with the disease in December, several months after she became sick, Blader

tem, patients do not recover by stopping their use of The defendants include Solgar Inc. and Wilner

Chemists Inc., the New York companies that packaged the tablets Dickson took, as well as Olden Health Food Centre in Trenton and others, Blader The Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta reports

more than 1,200 cases of eosinophilia-myalgia syn-drome associated with L-tryptophan and 15 deaths. But researchers have not yet determined why the supplement is making people sick when it has been in use for years, said Dr Leslie Swygert, a medical epidemilogist at the centre. (UPI)

Unmarked grave for organ donor: Susan Sutton's heart offered extended life to an Oklahoma City man, her liver was donated to a patient in Pennsylvania and her cornfax Texas for eye trans-

Her bones will be used for reconstructive surgery and some of her skin will provide graft for victims of The rest of her body was to be buried this week in an unmarked grave.

Her mother, Judy Sutton of Moore, said it isn't right that her 27-year-old daughter, who died Friday of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, should be buried in a pine box without a marker because her family cannot pay for anything better.

"She gave life to two different people and she gave sight to another one and this is so wrong." the mother

Sutton said officials at Hillcrest Health Centre who obtained permission for organ removal told her everything would be taken care of." She believed that would include luneral and burial expenses.

Hospital spokeswoman Janet Sellers said the statement meant only that the family would not be

charged for the organ removals. Kevin Stump, procurement co-ordinator for the Oklahoma organ sharing network, said federal law

prohibits financial help with such costs, which would be interpreted as "buying and selling of organs."







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The National Day of Kuwait

**Bush in** 

TOKYO, Feb 24, (UPI): Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will

visit President George Bush the first

week in March to discuss trade and

economic friction between the

world's two largest economic powers. Foreign Ministry officials

President Bush called Kaifu late

yesterday and invited him to a sum-

mit in Palm Springs, California, on

March 2-3 to exchange views on

bilateral issues and the current

international situation, the Foreign

The US and Japanese leaders will

focus on bilateral trade issues,

defence and political reform in Eas-

tern Europe, the ministry officials

Kaifu will depart Tokyo March 2

for his second meeting with Bush as Japan's prime minister, after a

He will quickly return to Tokyo

The meeting in Palm Springs

Ministry announced late today.

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March

Heavy water found: Canadian police are investigating how radioactive heavy water got into a coffee room water cooler at a nuclear station where it is believed responsible for contaminating at least six employees. Canadian press reported yesterday.

LESSIN BRIEF

Officials say sabotage at the point Lepreau nuclear plant in South-Eastern Canada has not been ruled

Two of the six employees were exposed to radiation equivalent to the acceptable annual dose limit, while the others had much lower levels, said a spokesman for New Brunswick Power, which runs the plant. Spokesman Larry Boudrea said the radiation showed up in routine tests taken on Thursday.

Wood penguins block airstrip: Environmental activists lined up 50 wooden Penguins across an airstrip at France's Antarctic station yesterday to dramatise their demand that construction of the strip

be stopped, the Greenpeace Organisation said.
The Greenpeace activists said they successfully blocked off a sections of the airstrip under construction at the Dumont D. Urville station. The organisation says the airstrip is being built on breeding sites of more than 6,000 penguins and 1,000 other birds.

The activists came from the Greenpeace antarctic vessel Gondwana. They are asking France to stop work on the airstrip and to call a conference of scientists to assess the environmental impact of the construction. (AP)

Belgium tax break: Belgian ministers decided Friday to give tax incentives to motorists who buy small cars equipped with pollution-cutting

exhaust systems. The tax break applies to cars with an engine capacity under two litres which have three-way catalytic converters, the cabinet said in a statement. It takes effect on July 1.

Under European Economic community rules, all new cars with an engine capacity of under 1.4 litres will have to use converters after December 31, 1992. The new measures would encourage drivers to change to cleaner cars before then, the cabinet said.

US mountaineers for Everest: Mountaineer Jim Whittaker led a group of US chimbers out of Seattle Friday en route to Asia, where they will join Soviets and Chimese in a joint "peace climb," of Mount Everest.

Members of the 'peace climb' expedition include 11 US nationals, eight Soviets, including their team leader. Vladimir Shatayev, and eight Chinese clim-

bers, who are led by Losang Dawa.
The climb will be the first ever united ascent of the world's tallest peak by mountaineers from the three

The US group will stop first in Hong Kong before travelling to Beijing, where they will connect with climbers from China and the Soviet Union to make final preparations for their ascent of the 29,028-foot (8,847 M) peak. (UPI)

#### Asia

Burmese students charge Thailand: The leading Burmese dissident student group has charged Thailand allowed Burmese troops to use Thai territory and possibly Thai ammunition for an offensive aimed at crushing insurgents fighting the military government.

The all Burma Students Democratic Front, in a statement received by United Press International on Thursday, said Thailand allowed Burmese troops to use Thai territory for attacks on three armed camps of the Mon and Karen minorities in the past two

The use of Thai territory allowed Burmese troops to capture two of the camps near the border it said.

Confidence plummets: Confidence in Hong Kong's future plummeted after China announced its final plans last week for a constitution for the territory after 1997, according to a survey published

Friday in Hong Kong.

The pubic opinion poll indicated confidence in Hong Kong has fallen even below the depressed levels of early June, when the British colony was traumatised by the violent crackdown on pro-

democracy demonstrators in Beijing.
Survey Research Hong Kong said its confidence index dropped to 79 in its telephone poll of 710 people Thursday, the lowest reading ever. (AP)

Drug dealers sentenced: A court in the cen-

tral Chinese city of Xian has sentenced one man to death for dealing in drugs and given another man a life sentence, the official legal daily said Friday. The report said 11 others were convicted of making and seiling narcotics, but their sentences were not

It said Wang Guiwa was given the death sentence for selling a total of 3,350 grams (7.4 pounds) of optourn on nine occasions and selling 1,350 grams (3 pounds) of heroin he had made.

Liu Gaowa was sentenced to life in prison for sciling 1,050 grams (2.3 pounds) of opium on three occasions and joining with Wang in producing 370 grams (13 ounces) of heroin, it said.(AP)

Practice birth control: Birth control is pracfixed by 88 per cent of Chinese married women of child-bearing age, but poor-quality contraceptive devices lead to a high rate of unplanned pregnancies. a state family planning commission official said.

Zhu Yaohua said 46 per cent of the 164 million

women practicing contraception are now using intra-uterine devices or lud, the official China Daily reported Friday. She said semale sterilisation, or tubal ligation, and vasoctomies are the next two most common forms of preventing births. (AP)

#### Africa

Take glaspost to heart: Tanzania's veteran Socialist leader Julius Nyerere called on his country to take glasnost to heart and said it could consider a multi-party political system, national media reported Thursday.

But he said Socialism would not be abandoned in

Nyerere, who was president of Tanzania for 25 years under a one-party system, and is widely regar-ded as one of Africa's most committed socialists, briefed media chiefs Wednesday on how it might be wrong to pursue the one-party system dogmanically. Now chairman of the Socialist Party Chama Cha

Mapinduzi (CCM), the 67-year-old former president said the lessons of Eastern Europe should inevitably have a bearing on Tanzania. (UPI)

80 cholera deaths reported: At least 80 people have died out of 906 reported cases of cholera in the Zambian capital and surrounding areas, it was reported Wednesday.



#### Koop acquitted

Former Swiss justice minister Elisabeth Koop wave to well-wishers upon leaving court yesterday in Lausanne where she was acquitted of charges of violating state secrecy. (Reuter wirephoto)

#### Perrier in trouble

aken to court BRIDGEPORT, Feb 24, (UPI): A federal lawsuit has been filed in Connecticut that could cost France's Perrier Co. millions of dollars for allegedly selling contaminated water knowingly,

attorneys said yesterday.
The lawsuit seeks class-action status that could allow thousands of customers of Perrier through-out the United States to file claims, said Attorney

Richard Bieder of Bridgeport. Bieder said Perrier's actions in handling the contamination of millions of bottles of water was carried out with 'deception and complete dis-

regard' toward the public. Their actions in allowing the public to believe their water was pure from the ground is without regard to the health concern of the American public," he said.

A spokeswoman at Perrier's US headquarters in Greenwhich declined to comment on specifics

Cholera is an intestinal disease spread mainly by poor hygiene and sanitation.

Victims have been reported from as far away as 200 kms (125 miles) after the epidemic broke out in Lusaka early this mouth, Health Ministry officials

But a World Health Organisation spokesman, Dr Eric van Praag, told the Associated Press the disease was being contained.

"There are cases still coming in from rural villages but the disease definitely declined," he said. "The situation is being contained and a smaller number of cases are appearing every day."

Princess Anne tours: Britain's Princess Anne, braving a sandstorm and stifling heat, on

Friday briefly shared the plight of refugees in camps in northern Senegal bordering Mauritania.

The princess listened to the stories of some of the 50,000 black Mauritanians who fled or were driven out of their country last year following ethnic riots in

#### both West African nations. (Reuter) Latin America

Ban on carnival nudity: The League of Samba Schools has banned total nudity in Rio de Janeiro's famous raucous carnival, sparking furious protests from entertainers planning to offer exactly that to an estimated 80,000 spectators.

Glum organisers of the Beija Flor Samba School,

who planed to present a dance entitled "everybody was born naked" detailing the evolution of man, said they would be particularly hard hit by the ban, (UPI)

Crime. inflation deter tourists With jus two days to go before carnival begins officially. Rio de laneiro's hotels, normally packed with tourists, are less than 80 per cent full and travel officials complain that crime and inflation are keeping

celebrants away.

Hotels are usually booked six months in advance during February as people from all over the world flock to Brazil's carnival capital to take part in the

Last year about 100,000 tourists joined in the (estivities, which range from all-night private balls to the high point of the celebrations on Sunday and Monday nights when the top Samba schools compete

in a glittering parade of music and dance.

But this year travel agencies have reported a 20 to
40 per cent cent drop in the number of tourists
arriving in Rio, said George Irmes, president of the Travel Agents Association. (Reuter)

Proof about Roldos death demanded: Ecuador on Thursday asked an American journalist to supply proof of his assertion that former Panmilitary strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega was involved in a plot in 1981 to kill Ecuador's then-president Jaime Roldos.

The report by Seymour Hersh in the March edition of Life magazine quoted a former senior US govern-ment intelligence official as saying Noriega was involved in a scheme to kill Roldos, who died in a plane crash on May 24, 1981.

Ecuadorean President Rodrigo Borja, in a written message to reporters, said: "His statements have stirred up public opinion in Ecuador and my government has a firm interest in establishing the truth of the matter and contributing to the investigation."

# Democracy going to dogs Kaifu to

BELIING, Feb 24, (Reuter): A province in north-

eastern China has issued local rules restricting

marriage for the mentally ill and those with venereal

disease in an effort to prevent births of handicapped

January take force in July, the China Daily said.

The rules issued by Liaoning province in mid-

"The regulations clearly define who cannot marry

Forbidden are marriages between relatives within

three generations and people who authorities think

might be suffering from mental illness or venereal

People treated for serious mental illness and

The Liaoning health authorities said the rules

The China Daily said the government was also

were aimed at helping "improve the quality of population of the area and relieve the burdens on the

released from hospital must undergo a two-year

observation period before they can apply for per-

and who cannot give birth because of health fac-tors" the official New China News Agency said.

babies, an official newspaper said today.

mission to marry, the China Daily said

state and the families involved."

BEIJING, Feb 24, (AP): The People's Daily isn't known for its sense of numour, as it proved yesterday with a scathing front-page report that American democracy is going to the

dogs.
The Communist Party newspaper said the town of Sunoi, California, had elected a dog as mayor.

"Western 'democracy' has rea-ched such a peak of perfection that not only can one talk of 'democracy' between people, but 'democracy' between dogs and people," it said with heavy sarcasm. "There is no distinction between people and dogs. ... no wonder some people prostrate themselves in worship of Western

democracy."

The laugh may be on the People's Daily, however.

Sunol is an unincorporated town of about 400 people in Alameda county, about 40 miles (65 kilometres) southeast of San Francisco. It has no municipal govern-

ment — and thus, no mayor.

However, some residents jokingly refer to a black mutt who wanders around the town, wearing a red ban-dana around his neck, as the "mayor." About 10 years ago, the dog, whose real name is Bosco, was elected to the non-existent position over two human candidates in a

When Bosco turned up missing for week in 1987, residents put up posters asking people to keep an eye out for "our friend and leader." He showed up a week later, wagging his tail and with a stick in his mouth. Sunol actually is governed by the Alameda county board of superv-

Refugees

challenge

screening

HONG KONG, Feb 24, (Reuter):

A group of Vietnamese boat peo-ple who face deportation from

Hong Kong mounted a high Court

battle today which could delay or

even halt the policy of forcible

attack by challenging Hong Kong's screening process that bes-

tows refugee status on a few and

declares the majority to be illegal

immigrants, his solicitor Robin

Those screened out as illegal immigrants are kept in detention centres until the British colony

sends them back to Vietnam, against their will if necessary. Ho and five other Vietnamese

screened out as illegal immigrants argue the process, carried out by government immigration officers,

is unfair and a breach of natural

initiated by the New York-based

lawyers committee for human

rights, through the entire appeal

process if necessary — a journey

that could end in the Privy Council

in London, Britain's ultimate

If the case succeeds in proving

one or more of the screening

the entire process and the policy of forced repatriation in jeopardy.

The Hong Kong government may be required to screen the six

again and may be forced to review the cases of nearly 10,000 Viet-

namese screened since the policy

Bridge said Judge Raymond

Sears handed down an instruction

forbidding Hong Kong to deport

Ho until the case against the

screening proces is heard in Hong

Kong's High Court.
The lawyer said he had sought

an assurance from the director of

immigration that the other five

would not be deported before their cases are heard. If no assurance is

forthcoming, he said he plans to file for stays of repatriation for the

The screening process has been widely criticised, particularly by

the London-based human rights group Amnesty International as unfair, inadequate and badly

An Amnesty report last month

cited several cases of people

screened out whom they said

would face persecution apon return to Vietnam, including a

young Christian human rights

activist who fled after being sen-

More than 43,700 of the 56,000

Vietnamese in Hong Kong arrived after screening was introduced in

Figures released by the Hong Kong office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(UNHCR) show about 12 per cent

of those screened so far have been

found to be eligible for reset-

tenced to jail for his activities.

flawed.

mechanisms is invalid it could per

court, legal sources said.

began in June 1988.

in to take their casi

Nguyen Ho, 30, launched the

process

repatriation.

Bridge said.

iostice.

drawing up new, unspecified population planning The People's Daily published the attack one day after the Foreign

its human rights record. . It also carried articles yesterday about the spread of Aids and drug use in the United States, bolstering the official image of the United States

Ministry lashed out at US criticism of

as an anarchic and degenerate

Drive against handicapped births

basis," it said.

■ China's leading daily today described the "vast scene of stability and prosperity" in the Chinese territory of inner Mongolia, making an indirect comparison to the surge of

contacted in Liaoning by telephone could not provide details of the regulations.

"The new guidelines will help put the state's birth

The government, which already punishes couples

who have more than the prescribed number of

children, will legislate new rewards and punish-

Urban couples may have only one child, and only

when the local authorities approve. Offenders are

Gansu province, in China's remote and poverty-

stricken northwest, passed a similar law in 1988

ordering all mentally retarded people who marry to

be sterlised and all mentally retarded women who

China has a serious problem with inbreeding,

mainly in remote mountainous and rural areas.

caused by centuries of poverty, ignorance and lack

It did not mention whether mentally retarded

couples would be subjec to sterlisation, and officials

ments under the new rules, it said.

become pregnant to have abortions.

subject to heavy fines.

of social mobility.

control programme onto a scientific and systematic

article, praised the Communist Party and the local government for spreading the Marxist view of unity among all nationalities that comprise the

democratic activity across the border

scheduled policy speech at the Diet. in Mongolia.
The People's Daily, in a front page Japan's parliament, the officials on March 3 to attend Diet sessions. Kaifu held his first summit talk with Bush in Washington in September.

follows intensive trade talks between US and Japanese high-level officials, which ended yesterday in Tokyo, and a visit by US Defence Secretary Dick Chency. Kaifu's Liberal Democratic Party was returned to power in elec-

tions earlier this month.

During the campaign, Washing

ton had eased pressure on the party to rectify the massive trade imbalance of about \$50 billion bet ween the two countries. But GS1: officials have said now that Kaifa & party is safely back in power when A are anxious for Japan to make subat. 🖈 stantial changes in its market and trade system, ig correct steen

imbalance the second government is resolved to entiminate from the new cabinet politicians tinted with scandals, sources close to the premier said today.

Those who have been implicated in the financial Recruit scandal would be primarily targetted in the

premier's purge. Kaifu, one week after his Liberal Democratic Party's comfortable majority win in parliamentary elections, is busily contacting political...

leaders to pick up a new governleaders to pick up a new government lineup, the sources said of the
Observers, meanwhile, said formen lineup, the sources said of the
ment lineup, the source said of the
is manoeuvering to secure at least
two senior positions for members of his wing of the party.

Former finance minister Kiichi Miyazawa, also a Liberal Democrat, appears to stand a slim chance for joining the new cabinet, after Kaifu selected one of Miyazawa's supporters, Mustsuku Kato,

as chairman of the policy board.

To placate the Abe wing the premier also chose Takeo Nishioka as chairman of the general council, replacing Koichi Kato who was involved in the Recruit scandal, the

sources said. Police and customs officials in western Japan have arrested three Chinese and three Japanese for

allegedly smuggling ivory into Japan from Taiwan valued at \$240 million yen (\$1.64 million US), an official of a local customs office said yesterday.
Seizure of the 11,991 items was

the first known case of smuggling invory into Japan since Japan joined an international ban on ivory trade last year, said Shigeru Kan asakı, spokesman of the Kobe Cus-

## \$680m Japan rice fund

TOKYO, Feb 24, (AP): if the ruling party has its way, Japan will buy millions of tonnes of foreign rice over. the next five years, but not one grain of it will enter the country, officials

said today.

Instead, the foreign rice would be distributed abroad as emergency aid.

Takashi Sato, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's comprehensive agriculture research commission, called for a five-year project to set up the rice fund and build storage facilities overseas for emergency food aid in case of natural disasters. Starting in April 1991; the ruling party plans to build 100-billion-yen (\$680-million) fund within five years

to purchase rice, mainly from the United States, Thailand and Singapore, he said. The plan calls for establishment of

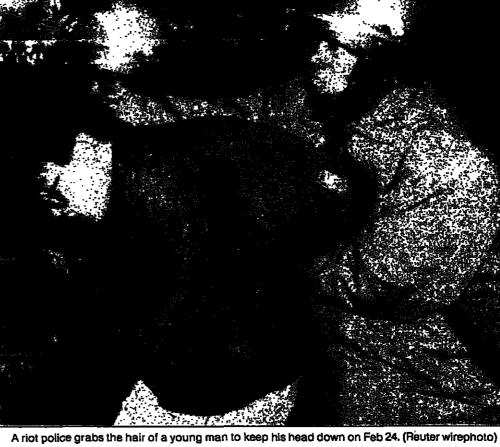
nce stockpiles in each country, filled with rice purchased by Japan, said Hajime Kondo, an aide to Sato. He said the project is intended to

get a message across -- Japan will buy rice and contribute to those suffering but will not import foreign rice for domestic consumption.

"We will never liberalise rice imports. We will never, ever allow a single forcion. single foreign rice grain into our nation," Kondo said.

The government has budgeted 10 million yen (\$68,000) during fiscal 1990 for feasibility studies. Sato's plan calls for foreign rice to

be added to the list of items to be. donated to countries requiring emergency support. The Japanese Red Cross society will handle the dona-tions, he said,



## Violent Seoul protest

SEOUL, Feb 24, (UPI): Hundreds of hard-line dissidents including student activists staged a series of violent demonstrations in Seoul and several provincial cities today to protest the recent merger of three political groups into a large government

In Seoul, about 1,500 protesters gathered around 3 pm on Taehakno Street in a downtown section and held a rally to denounce the new ruling Democratic

Liberal Party (DLP). The protesters charged that President Roh Tae-woo and former opposition leaders Kim Young-Sam and Kim Jong-Pil formed their new government party to prolong dictatorship. They vowed to struggle to bring down the party and Roh's gover-

nment. Police stepped in to break up the gathering 20 minutes after it started. The dissidents staged a violent demonstration for an hour, hurling rocks and firebombs at riot squads, witnesses said.

Another group of about 700 dissidents tried to gather at the downtown Myongdong cathedral to hold a similar rally at 5 pm but were stopped by police who blocked their way near the

They sat down on a busy street for an hour in protest and refused to disperse. They repeatedly shouted, "disband DLP" and "step down, Roh."

About 150 people were seen being arrested by police during the series of protests, witnesses said. Some news reporters were roughed in protests, the witnesses said.

The domestic Yonhap news

China, Soviet relations

## Roh eyes ties SEOUL, Feb 24, (UPI): President Roh Tae-woo said today he believes South Korea eventually will establish formal diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and China.

Roh, meeting reporters on the eve of the second anniversary of his inauguration to a five-year presidential term, also paid tribute to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for pursuing his political reforms despite adversity.

"It is a matter of time but I am confident in principle that we will have formal relations with the Soviet Union and China." But and other whole shout the

relations with the Soviet Union and China," Roh said when asked about the prospects for diplomatic ties with the two communist countries.

Roh said he initially thought relations with China would come first, but said

Roh said he initially thought relations with China would come first, but said that because of Beijing's violent crackdown on last year's pro-democracy movement formal ties likely would be established first with the Soviet Union. He said he hoped the 1990 Asian Games opening in Beijing in September will prompt China to move forward for full diplomatic relations with South Korea. Commenting on Gorbachev, Roh said, "sometimes I sympathise with him as he faces many difficulties in pushing for reform and openness in a communist system. He seems to be a leader who gives sincere thoughts to the future of the Soviet Union."

South Korea has substantially expanded informal relations with the Soviet Union and China following the 1983 Seoul Summer Olympics. Trade with the two countries is growing and Seoul and Moscow have exchanged trade offices ith consular departments. Being North Korea's allies, the two communist nations have not yet granted

formal diplomatic recognition to South Korea, however.

Roh said North Korea appears preoccupied with the transfer of power from President Kim Il-sung to his Son Kim Chong-il. sters battled police on campus for 1-1/2 hours, throwing molotov cocktails and rocks,

Yonhap said.

The latest series of protests

was sponsored by the National Democratic Alliance of Korea,

the National Council of Univer-

sity Student Representatives and

10 other hard-line dissident

groups to protest what they

called a grand conservative

alliance founded Jan 22 to merge

their parties and to give birth to a new broadly based ruling force

subscribing to moderate, middle-of-the-road democracy.

agency said dissidents and activist students staged similar demonstrations in at least three provincial cities.

In Kwangju, 170 miles (274 km) south of Seoul, about 800 youths of Chosun University held a campus rally and burned a US flagalong with the flags of the new ruling group, Yonhap said. There have been dissident charges that the new party was pro-United States.

The students tried to march off

campus for street demonstrations but police moved in firing tear gas, Yonhap said. The prote-

## Seoul-Sydney

SEOUL. Feb 24, (UPI): Regular flight service between South Korea and Australia is scheduled to begin in

and Sydney was signed yesterday in Canberra by officials.

#### Cambodian troops seize 12 rebel bases, key town in major offensive October, has about 50,000 civilians living under an adminabout 20 Soviet-supplied tanks have captured 12 bases of troops have returned to Cambodia after their withdrawal

ARANY APRATHET, Feb 24, (Agencies): A Cambodian covernment offensive spearheaded by Vietnamese troops, Sover-ment oftensive spearmeages by remainer troops, Sover-built tanks and massive artillery barrages has everum 13 resistance bases so far and today headed for a major new target. That and resistance military sources and A halt in the shipment of Chinese arms made possible the government offensive.

Lea Phasen Barraget Minister Hum Sen outlined a

la Phnom Penh, Prime Minister Hun Sen outlined a tough stance before peace talks due to start Monday in Jakarta, vowing his government will "maintain the status quo" until UN-supervised elections can be held.
That multary sources at the border town of Aran-

vaprathet said Vietnamese and Cambodian troops led by

the three-party resistance coalition as well as the key town of Svay Chek in the past four days of a major offensive. The Kinner People's National Liberation Front reported it has not received Chinese shipments in three months, and Prince Sihanouk's group also has reported shortages. It was not known if supplies in the communist Khiner Rouge, China's main ally in the resistance coalition, had

been affected. Gen. Pan Thai, chief of staff of the Khmer People's National Liberation from vesterday blamed the loss of the northwestern town of Svay Chek on the shortage of arms. Thmar Puok district, captured by the resistance in

istration set up by the Khmer People's National Libera-tion Front (KPNLF).

The source, who asked not to be identified, said KPNLF troops under Lt Gen. Kuan Saruon have broken up into small units to escape the government offensive and some have retreated to the Thai border about 15 miles (24 km)

He said highly-trained Vietnamese troops formed the backbone of the 3,000-man offensive which apparently

caught the KPNLF unprepared. Vietnam has denied frequent charges that its combat

in September last year, but it has admitted that military icians have returned at the Phnom Penh govern-

In other developments France has halted its arms sup-plies to Prince Sihanouk's group fighting Cambodia's communist government after the covert programme was published, senior guerrilla officers say.

France had been supplying sophisticated FA-Mas assault rifles, Luchaire AC rifle grenades and Lrac 89-milimetre anti-tank guns, the officers said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

## flights to begin

April, a Transportation Ministry spokesman said today.

An agreement providing direct regular weekly flights between Scoul

Under the accord Korean Airlines

(KAL) plans to inaugurate a once-aweek service to and from Sydney on April 2, the spokesman said بالمالالالال

上の日本

with Moscow and formation of a new party.

to power 73 years ago.

# Soviets prepare for February revolution

Pro-reform rallies planned for today

MOSCOW, Feb 24, (Agencies): Seventy-three years after the February revolution brought down the Tsars, Soviet authorities braced for a new surge of political activism

Big pro-reform rallies are planned for tomorrow in cities and towns across the Soviet Union's three most important republics, including the giant Russian federation. Several old-line Communist Party leaders are expected to be swept from office in polls

set for March 4 in Russia, the Ukraine and Byelorossia. Adding to the pressure on the Kremlin, Lithuanians went to the polls today to elect a Parliament expected to move swiftly to restore the republic's pre-war independence.

The statement, published on the front pages of the central newspaper today, also appealed to progressive forces not to disrupt the "normal working rhythm of the country."

Organisers have predicted half a million people will take part in the Moscow rally, with thousands more elsewhere.

The military newspaper Kras-naya Zvezda said today militia and Interior Ministry troops were patrolling the capital, with others held in reserve for rapid deployment.

On Friday, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov warned the nation the authorities would crack down hard on any troublemakers at the demonstrations - called to support proreform candidates in the coming polls.
"I think every person, every

citizen in our country should stop for a moment and consider what is really happening here," Ryzhkov said in a televised appeal:
"In the wave of transforms-

tion sweeping across our country, we must learn to distinguish between what is positive and what is merely destructive."

Radical economist Gavrill Popov, one of the organisers of the Moscow rally, told Renters yesterday that violence could come from conservative forces opposed to Gorbachev's perestroika reforms.

This is not at the highest level but somewhere just below. These people who are worried about losing power, who won't be around after (next June's) party

Congress," he said
The Communist Party's
policy-setting central committee and Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov earlier issued warnings of their own.

A Soviet official said top ngwes in di stry were tol at a special briefing yesterday that 8,000 special Interior Ministry troops had been flown in to Moscow where authorities expected 800,000 demon-

He said senior ministry officials living in special privileged housing had been told to remain indoors tomorrow.

A student at a leading Moscow foreign affairs institute quoted a military instructor there as saying Moscow-based officers had been ordered to remain by their telephones during the rallies. The reports could not be

independently confirmed. The big rallies reflect a remarkable acceleration of

political activism in a once largely apathetic country. In December, thousands of mourners flocked to the funeral of human rights campaigner Andrei Sakharov, setting the

stage for a big pro-reform rally earlier this month at the foot of the Kremlin. Organisers of tomorrow's rally had sought permission to gather again in the Manezh

Square, just outside the Kremlin. but their request was refused by city officials. Instead, the demonstrators

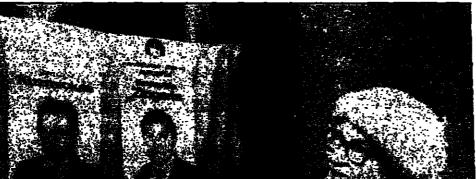
will rally in a square on the city's ring road after assembling at two nearby points.

Sakharov ■ The late Andrei Sakharov,

father of the Soviet human rights movement has topped state founder Vladimir Lenin in a popularity poll published today.

An official newspaper said yesterday that former Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov secretly agreed with Moscow in 1972 to incorporate Bulgaria into the ◆ Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union marked Army Day yesterday with fireworks, protests and warnings that soldiers coming home under Gorbachev's demilitarisation drive will be left out in the cold.



A Lithuanian woman looks at election posters. (Reuter wirephoto)

# Polish hitch to unity

Kohl, Genscher differ on border issue

Boehme elected

East Germany's Social Damocrats

(SPD), poised to win the country's first free elections next month; chose

human rights activist Ibrahim Boe-

their candidate for prime minister.

hme (shown above) on Friday as

Boehme, 45, was elected SPD party chairman by 438 votes to 27 with 13

abstentions midway through the par-

ty's pre-election congress. There

were no challengers.

The four-day convention was taking place in Leipzig, cradle of the

democratic reform movement that

chased East Germany's Stalinist elite

Polls indicate the SPD, resurrected

in October 43 years after being forci-

bly absorbed by the Soviet-backed

communists, will sweep to a govern-ing majority in the March 18 election.

Several recent polls, however.

have indicated East Germany's

Social Democrats will win more

than 50 per cent of the vote.

from power last November.

parliament:

WEST BERLIN, Feb 24, (AP): West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher says siscertaints over Bonn's stance regarding Poland's western border is hindering German unification, and has called for Germany to reject any claims to Polish

Today, Chancellor Helmut Cohl flies to the United States for talks with US President George Bush. German unification is expected to be the major topic of discussion.

Poland's state news agency Pap said that Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki called Kohl last evening.
The prime minister presented

to the chancellor Poland's position on the problems connected with the process of unification of Germany and security of their

neighbours," Pap said.

Mazowiecki stepped up the pressure on the border issue this week by calling on the two Germanys to sign a peace treaty guaranteeing Poland's post-World War II boundaries.

Kohl's spokesmen say that only the government of a united Germany can reject claims to what is now Poland, leading to an apparent difference of opinion with the Foreign Ministry.

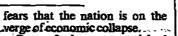
German conservatives still claim part of modern-day Poland. About one-third of modern-day Poland was part of the Third Reich, and was turned over to Poland after the Nazi

Many agree with Genscher in arguing that questions about Bonn's stance regarding Polish territory stand in the way of joining the two German states.

The West German government is aiready positioning itself for the expected merging, although some say Kohl has been trying to move too quickly.
Interior Minister Wolfgang

Schaeuble told US officials that the East Germany's freely elected parliament may opt for immediate unification, after being sworn in following elections on March 18.
"It is conceivable that there

will be no more (East German) government after March 18," the conservative Bonn daily news-paper Die Welt quoted him as telling officials in Washington. He said was due to the expected splintering of the new



One of the most critical decisions affecting the pace and manner of unification will be the rate at which the East German mark is made convertible for the powerful West German currency in a monetary union joining the currencies.

A i-to-i conversion rate would likely lead to rampant inflation, economists say. Bonn government spokesman

Dieter Vogel yesterday discounted a newspaper report contend-ing that the West German government had decided on the 1-to-1 Vogel said that the committee

studying economic union is still in the "fact-finding stage" and has come up with no firm con-Genscher, the influential

foreign minister of the centrist Free Democrats, has called for a clear stance regarding the Polish border.

"Uncertainty or a lack of obligation in this question hinders the unification of Germany," Genscher said in an interview with the Augsburger Zeitung.

He said both countries should issue declarations rejecting claims to Polish territory after East Germany's elections on March 18.

In other developments West German Bundesbank president Karl Otto Poehl tried to calm East German financial jitters, by advising them not to exchange their East German savings for West German currency.

The East German ostmark is considered overvalued and weak compared to the strong West German mark, and anything less than a 1-to-1 exchange would make the East German currency far less valuable than it is curren-

However, economists have said that a 1-to-1 exchange rate is unlikely because it also would send inflation soaring, and East Germans fear their savings in ostmarks will be virtually wiped out when and if the Germanys agree on a single currency.

Solidarity leader Lech East Germany's economic Walesa said yesterday the Soviet crisis has accelerated in recent Union is not doing enough to weeks, forcing the government to include Poland in the peace talks end food subsidies and raising on German unification.

#### The latest sign came in an appeal from the Council of Ministers, calling on security organs to take "necessary measures to preserve order." Lithuania votes, on

way to

secede

And a large bloc of Larvian communists opened a conference to study a possible break

Activists have already dubbed their big pro-reform campaign "the February 1990 revolution," a reference to the upheaval that brought a short-lived reformist government

But it was clear that even official backers of President and party leader Mikhail

Gorbachev's reforms were alarmed over the accelerating grass-roots campaign for

VILNIUS, USSR, Feb 24, (UPI): Lithuanians voted in heavy munexpected to produce a proindependence Parliament to ratify speedy secession from the Soviet Union.

The yellow-green-and-red Lithuanian national flag fluttered under sunny skies at hundreds of polling stations throughout the Baltic republic.

The red Soviet banner with its hammer and sickle was not on display. Also absent were the huge portraits and busts of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin that once dominated polling stations in pseudo-elections that offered voters no choice.

"The nation will choose its own Parliament," said Wladyslaw Mackiewicz, one of Lithnania's 400,000 ethnic Poles. "Soviet rule has ruined us, and we have to repair everything."

Many voters interviewed at several polling stations said the elections opened a new chapter in Lithnanian history, because the Parliament would be elected democratically for first time since
the Soviet Union absorbed the time
nation in 1940.

Turnout among the republic's
2.6 million eligible voters was

beavy across the republic as Lithuanians chose the 142-seat Supreme Soviet from among 473 didates, authorities said.

A spokesman for Sajudis, the nationalist movement whose can-didates were expected to sweep to victory, said four US congressmen invited by the group to observe the elections had finally received their visas after initial denials by Mos-

But the spokesman said he did not know when the congressmen would arrive in Lithnania on what Moscow called a "tactless" mission. Eight Canadian lawmakers allowed into the country earlier monitored the voting at various polling stations.

In the capital of Vilnius, voting was orderly with maximum 10-minute waits in lines of people filing past tables draped with red tablecloths.

Most voters quickly made their choices in booths cloaked by red curtains and then dropped the single-page ballots in a box with a large slot in the middle at each polling station. Sabina Samko, in charge of

polling station 22 in the large Naujoji Vilna district on the outskirts of Vilnius, said the new Parliament will face the difficult task of transforming Lithmania into a modern country.
"The problem of independence

is the most important for us," she Samko, a member of the Lith-nanian Communist Party that

broke away from Moscow two months ago, said Mikhail Gorba-chev will have to accept the will of the Lithuanian people to become

Gorbachev's trip to Lithuania last month, the first ever by a Soviet leader, became a three-day forum of fierce debate on Lithuanian independence, with Gorbachev warning the republic was "setting sail without a compass."

About 30 young men turned in their military identification cards in the Lithuanian capital yesterday, and in Moldavia youths burned a military uniform in protests on Soviet Army Day.

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Europe

Romania tightens security: The Romanian government has issued bayonets and dogs to security forces and is moving additional police to Bucharest to control demonstrations. Interior Mini-ster Mihai Chitae said on Friday.

Chitac made the announcement during a session of the ruling Provisional Council of National Unity, which was discussing a decree that would limit

Meanwhile, more than 500 people knelt and prayed at an open-air mass in downtown Bucharest on Friday, the first such celebration in decades. They offered prayers for those who died in the revolution

that toppled dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.
In another development, Foreign Minister Sergiu
Celae expressed optimism about UN supervision of
the country's first free elections, now scheduled for
May 20. Celae met last week with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Celac also called for the restoration of preferential

trading terms with the United States. Romania's most-favoured-nation status was revoked by Washington in 1988 because of human rights abuses under then-leader Nicolar Ceausescu. (AP)

Bulgaria agrees to abolish party: The Communist Party leadership agreed to abolish party organisations from the workplace, a key demand of opposition groups seeking full democracy after decades of one-party rule, informed sources said

yesterday.

The state BTA news agency said the same meeting Friday of the Communist Party's Supreme Council also decided to call a referendum to decide whether the party should change its name to the Bulgarian Socialist Party.
All Communist Party members would be eligible

to vote in the May plebiscite, BTA said. Communist parties in Soviet bloc countries further along the road to democracy already have reformed as socialist parties professing democratic ideals, in an attempt to win support ahead of multiparty elections.

The law to abolish party cells at work — a traditional tool of Communist indoctrination for

decades — is expected to be adopted at a session of the natoinal assembly, or parliament, which opens on March 5. More progressive Communist Parties elsewhere in the Soviet bloc already have terminated their presence on the factory floor. (AP) EEC studying E. Europe: The European

Economic Community is studying the granting of associate membership to emerging democracies of Eastern Europe, a top official of the 12-nation organisation said Friday. Frans Andriessen, vice-preaffairs and trade policy of the European Economic Community, said Western democracies need to do

everything possible to encourage the dramatic reforms underway in the Communist bloc.

He said the EEC has expanded its economic assistance beyond the original targets of Poland and Hungary to include East Germany. Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia. "If in the West, we persevere in our efforts to assist

them, then an economic revolution will succeed the political ones," Andriessen said. (AP)

Czech plan to reinforce police: Czechoslovak Interior Minister Richard Sacher plans to reinforce police patrols at the weekend in the wake of fears that pro-democracy rallies could be disrupted, the state news agency CTK reported on Friday.

The Civic Forum, a loose opposition movement currently governing in coalition with the Communists and other political parties, is organizing a rally in downtown Prague in memory of Jan Zajic, who set himself alight on Feb 25, 1969, to protest the presence of Soviet troops in his country which were part of the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion to crush reform. (AP)



#### Bomb suspects arrested

Silvana dall' Ono, 45, shown embracing her brother. Artemio, 50, after she was released by her abductors May 3, 1989. Both of them were arrested Feb 22, 1990. ng the discovery of a parcel bomb address to her brother-in-law Oscar Zannoni Silvana was kidnapped Oct 1988 and released May 2, 1989 after her hisband Gluseppe Zannoni and her brother-inlaw Oscar Zannoni paid four billion lire (\$3m) ransom Silvana's release raised particular comment because she emerged none the worse for her ordeal and said her kidnappers had given her jewellery. champagne and caviar (Reuter wirephoto)

#### Djilas' book

#### Published at last

BELGRADE, Feb 24, (AP): "The New Class," the book that made Yugoslavia's leading dissident Milovan Djilas famous in the West, started selling in this communist country for the first time yesterday.

The book that describes the flamboyant lifes-

tyles of ruling communist clites was widely sold in the West after it was smuggled out of Yugoslavia in 1957, but earned its author, a former top ommunist official, a seven-year prison sentence.

It was printed by a state publishing house in Belgrade and put on sale yesterday in a bookshop in the capital by publishing editor Vasilije

Djilas, a former protege of Yugoslavia's founder and former president, the late Josip Broz Tito, broke with the communist leadership in 1954 after he publicly criticized the Communist Party for not allowing more western-style democracy in Yugoslavia.

Finland's bill on war damages: Finland might present a future united Germany with a bill forwardamage to arctic lapland, a senior Foreign Ministry official said on Friday,

Finnish forces chased 200,000 German troops out of lapland between 1944 and 1945 with heavy loss of life and widespread destruction but the question of

reparations is still open.
"If other countries come forward with similar bills then certainly we will be in the negotiations. It is another question, whether we will be successful, "said Eero Kekomaki, head of the ministry's legal depart-ment. He declined to comment on how big the bill could be. (Reuter)

## mangela taces test

#### Bid to end black feud

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 24, (Agencies): Black nationalist Nelson Mandela faces the biggest test of his leadership since release from life imprisonment when he tries tomorrow to end a bloody inter-black feud in South

Africa's Natal province.

Mandela, figurehead of the African National Congress
(ANC), will also attempt to forge unity among anti-apartheid groups ahead of negotiations with the white minority

government on a post-apartheid South Africa.

"Mandela's reputation for statesmanship and non-sectarian breadth of vision will be tested to full tomorrow," commented The Star, the country's largest daily news-

Mandela's speech at a rally in the Natal port city of Durban will be his second major address since being freed 13 days ago. It will deal with an 11-year-old rift between the two largest groups representing voteless blacks — the ANC and the Zulu Inkatha Movement.

In the past three years the feud between Inkatha and the leftist United Democratic Front (UDF), the ANC's ally, in Natal has erupted into open violence in which more than 2,000 people have been killed and 100,000 made homeless.

"The most challenging task facing the leadership today is that of unity," Mandela said in a recent letter to Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Buthelezi says he and Mandela have remained friends

despite the rift and welcomes his trip to Natal, home of the country's six million Zulus. Both Inkatha, a powerful organisation supported by traditional Zulus and favoured by big business, and the UDF, denounced by Pretoria as a Communist front, want to end apartheid but differ on tactics.

Meanwhile Mandels in an interview with British Broad-casting Corporation said ANC was willing to compromise with the South African government and that democratic elections must precede negotiations on the future of the

Since his release Feb 11 after 27 years in prison, Mandela has reaffirmed his support for the ANC's economic policies, which call for nationalisation of mines, banks and nonopoly industries.

He and other ANC officials pursuing the goal of black

majority rule in South Africa have sought to reassure white businessmen, saying economic issues should be subject to negotiation and compromise. Mandela also met Friday with white and mixed-race

members of parliament who previously have been shunned by some black militants because they participate in a legislative body that excludes blacks.

Aides meanwhile said Mandela's first trip abroad since

caving prison, an 18-day, four-nation journey, would begin next week.

Mandela, whose last trip out of the country began with a

clandestine border crossing in 1962, shortly before his imprisonment, plans to fly Tuesday to Lusaka, Zambia. There, he will meet leaders of several African countries and confer with the exiled leadership of his African National Congress guerrilla movement.

An elderly female supporter of South Africa's Democratic Party (DP) applauds during a meeting. (Reuter wirephoto) He then plans to spend three days in Zimbabwe and six days in Tanzania before flying to Sweden on March 12 to visit ANC president Oliver Tambo, who is recovering from a stroke in a Stockholm clinic.

Britain came under fire for relaxing sanctions against South Africa to reward the white minority government for its reforms and the release of black leader Nelson Man-

dela.

Anti-apartheid campaigners, meanwhile condemned Britain for relaxing sanctions — the first by any government. Mandela himself joined the chorus of disapproval, saying he wanted talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The nation's largest daily newspaper said today it had given police the names of five men the paper believes killed a white academic last year.

a white academic last year. The Star said the names had been given to Brig. Floris

Mostert, who is heading the investigation into allegations that right-wing hit squads connected to the police and the defence force may have assassinated anti-government

## Ivory Coast protest demanding reform ends with students arrested and beaten

ABIDJAN, Feb 24, (Reuter): An unprecedented protest by Ivory Coast university students who occupied the central cathedral ended early today with demonstrators herded into the main police station and fellow students beaten.

Most of about 150 students who occupied the modern Saint Paul's Cathedral for more than 10 hours were driven to the nearby central police headquarters where they were pulled screaming from police vans. The students, after being photographed and giv-

ing their names to police, said they thought they had

assurances they were free to leave the cathedral. But they grew wary when one of the curates who boarded the police vans with them in the cathedral grounds jumped out.

Asked where they were going as the vans departed, the students told reporters: "We don't know, we

Earlier, police charged at a group of about 300 students and supporters milling outside the cathedral in the centre of Ivory Coast's principal city Abidjan. Witnesses saw several students clubbed and about a dozen detained.

The occupation of the cathedral was the most dramatic protest in a week of demonstrations against the 30-year rule of this West African country by its first post-independence President, Felix Hou-

The students have been demanding changes ranging from dismissal of the education minister and payment of overdue benefits to the resignation of the 84-year-old President and an end to one-party

The bold protests by the students have included painting "down with Houphouet-Boigny" on a cen-

tral bridge and trying to force their way into the television studios to broadcast their demands.

There has been virtually no mention of the protest in the Ivory Coast media and the students' foray into the cathedral area seemed designed to attract maximum attention.

Students leaving the cathedral said they were scared what the police might do to them and said they had little time while inside the church, built with donations from Houphouet-Boigny, to discuss their

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Honecker 'amassed fortune

HAMBURG, Feb 24, (Reuter): East German prosecutors suspect former communist leader Erich Honecker amassed a huge private fortune during his years in power, the West German magazine Der Spiegei reported today.

It said Honecker, ousted last October, appropriated 75 million marks

(\$45 million) in 1989 alone.

The money, paid by West Germany to "buy" the release of political prisoners, was lodged in an account to which only Honecker had access, the magazine said. Der Spiegel said it had obtained a copy of a prosecutor's application for an arrest warrant against Honecker accusing him of having "systematically squandered considerable imancial and material assets and

Honecker denied the allegations, it added.

# Marrying a jinni, you're 'not prohibited' | Syrians blast ferry

CAIRO, Feb 24, (UPI): An Egyptian Islamic scholar advised readers of his popular weekly advice column Wednesday that marriage to a jinni — which in Muslim legend is believed to be a supernatural being that can take human form is possible, provided the jinni was female.

Jinnis are best known in the West through the tales of the Arabian Nights, where a boy called Aladdin found a magic lamp and a magic ring, with which he could call up a jinni to do his bidding.

"A human male can marry a female jinni, but a male jinni cannot marry a human female," Sheikh Ibrahim Al Wakfi advised readers in the government-superv-

ABU DHABI, Feb 24, (AP): For

the first time. Yasser Arafat has

approved the appointment of

women to head the Palestine

Liberation Organisation's

diplomatic missions, a senior

Abdul Latii Abu Hijlah, direc-

tor-general of the PLO's political

department, said Layla Shaheed

was named Palestinian "ambas-

sador" to Dublin and Nuha Tadrus to Valetta, Malta, under

a reshuffle of representatives

The PLO has called its

representatives ambassadors

since it launched its 1988 peace

initiative acknowledging the

existence of the state of Israel side

by side with a Palestinian state on

what was formerly Palestine

The PLO has already

unilaterally proclaimed the establishment of the state, gen-erally designated for the West

Bank and Guza Strip territories

which are under Israeii occupa-

Abu Hijlah, who spoke in Abu

Dhabi, said the reshuffle

involves 12 ambassadors among

whom were some new appointees, including the two women.

Ms Shaheed, who studied

political sciences at the Sor-

bonne, was a close aide of the late

Izzudeen Qalaq, the PLO's

representative in Paris who was

Ms Shaheed, in her early 40s,

has been an active member of

Fatha, the Palestinian main-

stream faction within the PLO.

since she was a student at the

tages in Lebanon will be released.

DAMASCUS, Feb 24, (AP): Information

Minister Mohammed Salman said today that

statements from Iran and Lebanon have

He told Peggy Say, sister of US hostage Terry Anderson: "We're optimistic for the

release at a time when we hear statements by

But he cautioned Say that a hostge release

"The matter requires careful study and

the Iranians and an official in Lebanon.'

assassinated in the late 1970s.

under British mandate.

PLO official said today.

approved by Arafat.

**PLO** names first

women diplomats

American University of Beirut

as an active Fatah member.

East Berlin to Madrid.

Ms Tadrus was also described

Abu Hiilah said the other

changes involved the transfer of Fuad Bitar from Athens, Greece

to Bucharest, Romania, while

Issam Kamil will be moved from

Fuad Yassin moves from

Spain to Turkey, while Ribhi Haloum moves from Turkey to

Indonesia and Al Tayyib Abdul-

Rahman from Yugoslavia to

shifts to Greece and Hassan

Abdul Rahman replaces him.

Abdul Rahman was considered

representative in the United

States even though Washington

was rejected having a PLO office.

assigning Kayid Jaradat to

Madagascar and Mohammed Abu Shanab to Djibouti.

for Washington, according to Abu Hijlah, but he would not

give the name of the new appoin-

Earlier, a PLO official had des-

cribed the reshuffle as "a restruc-

turing of our missions after they

were turned into embassies.

designed to upgrade their perfor-

He said the move became

necessary in support of the peace initiative and to offset the

political gains Israel was making

in Eastern Europe after the

dramatic government changes in

countries that were traditional

supporters of the PLO.

The 12th appointee would be

New appointments include

Abdullah Abdullah in Canada

ised Islamic newspaper Allewaa Al Islami. Worried reader Abdul-Saalam Hamed asked whether love and marrige to a jinni would violate Islamic laws.

Sheikh Al Wakfi quoted noted Islamic philosopher Ibn Tamimah as saying that, human beings and jinnis were allowed to make love within the sanctity of marriage, and even have children.

Many Egyptians tend to believe in the supernatural, and avidly read advice columns in newspapers such as Allewaa Al Islami.

Even educated Egyptian tend to take a great interest in the supernatural, and many believe in things like jinnis."

explained US-educated psychologist Lutfi Ibrahimi, 32.

The sheikh said: "One cannot say that making love between human beings and jinnis is impossible, because the jinnis are created out of fire, for as God made human beings out of mud, so he made jinnis out of

He warned devout Muslims however that, "there are good jinnis and there are bad jinnis ... the bad ones are used as fuel for hell's inferno, while jinnis which are converted to Islam are liberated."

But another Islamic scholar, Sheikh Abdel-Monsef Mahmood, said in the

same weekly newspaper that marriage bet-ween human beings and jinnis was impossible, because both groups share an intense dislike for each other.

"They hate each other, so marriage is out of question," Sheikh Mahmood was quoted as saying.

The scholar said some Muslims, however, believed that sex and marriage between jinnis and humans was, "taboo and meest.

Sheikh Mahmood advised readers to refrain from getting emotionally attached to jinnis, because such a union would cause "more problems that it is worth."

# Baker. Arens agree

WASHINGTON, Feb 24, (AP): US Secretary of State James Baker and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Areas failed yesterday to arrange an opening round of Mideast negotiations, but left the impression of eventual success.

hopefully a very productive meet-ing," Baker said after talking to Arens alone for 90 minutes in his State Department office.

It was a very constructive and

Arens agreed, saying "we had a good, constructive conversation."

However, when Baker was asked if he had been able to set up a three-way meeting with Arens and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid — the first step in a drawn-out US plan for negotiations — he replied:

"No, we have not agreed today on the timetable for a trilateral

After the meeting, Arens flew to New York and planned to con-time on to Israel to night, at the end of the Jewish Sabbath. He will brief Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the Israeli cabinet separately tomorrow, officials

On Monday, Arens is due in Warsaw to oversee a resumption of diplomatic relations with Poland after a 23-year lapse.

While the statements by Baker

and Arens indicated some optimism, the next move is up to the Israeli cabinet, the customary procedure. Raker told the Israeli foreio

minister about his talks in Moscow with Soviet officials on two issues of keen interest to Israel: rising anti-Semitism and Soviet unwillingness to implement an agreement for direct Aeroflot flights to Tel Aviv with Jewish

Arens said he had thanked Baker for his efforts.

The meeting was held against a backdrop of US impatience and mounting political pressure in Israel for concessions over peace

Israel's majority Likud Party, of which Arens is a senior member, is under pressure from the min-ority Labour Party to accept Labour's formula for starting the talks or to face dissolution of the coalition government in Israel.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, meanwhile, said in a letter released by peace activists in the Israeli capital that he had approved the composition of a Palestinian delegation that would include delegates from the West Bank and Gaza.

Baker has tried for months to arrange a three-way session here with Arens and Egypt's Abdel-Meguid. It would be followed by talks between Israel and Palestin-

Baker told the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Thursday the agenda and the composition of the delegation remained unset-

#### said the captain. "When the Baroness M radioed (Continued from Page 1) raiders spoke with Syrian accents.

Two Lebanese ferry crewmen said they saw a Syrian flag and the number 23 on the boat.

There was no immediate comment

from Damascus on the attack. Bloodstains, glass shards and fragments of shattered furniture and gaming machines littered the plush saloon of the ferry.

"The saloon was crowded with men, women and children. People were crying and there were bloodstains everywhere," said a Lebanese passenger who said she escaped only because she went to the toilet minutes before the attack.

"There was terrible confusion and panic on board. There was smoke and dust everywhere and people screaming," he said. "We first thought the ship had caught fire, but the smoke and the dust was only

caused by the exploding shells."
"We ran from one side of the boat to the other as the gunboat circled," Suleiman said.

The captain said at dawn, two hours after the first encounter, pas-sengers and crew went to the top deck and waved flags and sheets at the warship to attract its attention.

"We were telling it on the radio

that we had wounded who needed attention badly and we were asking it for help for the wounded passengers,

the Syrian boat hauled down its crew member Danny Zarour (lag," said. The captain said the warship hovered in the distance, finally

approaching a third time. He said he could not tell what country it came "As if nothing had happened he ordered me to open the back gang-

plank so that he could examine our cargo." he said. The Baroness M, designed to take cars on and off the back ramp, usually travels with an empty hull to

Lebanon. Only the passenger bag-gage is stored in the area for cars. We told him we were a Greek ship under the Cyprus flag and he told us go back to our country and don't try to come to Lebanon again. Samlotakis said.

Nora Kasbari, spokesman for Socomar, agents for the ship, said it carried 64 passengers and 52 crew members when it left Larnaca late yesterday for the seven-hour trip to Jounieh, 200 kilometres (120 miles)

The RAF answered the distress call at 6.52 am (0452 GMT), dropping two doctors and a medical team on board to sedate the wounded. ■ A security committee of representatives from rival Christian forces began today to remove mines and sand barricades from streets in the Christian enclave in a second such

attempt in 24 hours, Christian sources said. Sources said a buildozer removed huge sand barricades on the Dog River crossing points in the northern region of Kesrouwane, Lebanese Forces militia sources said the cross-

ing points opened both ways for pedestrians and cars. The operation was supervised by security committee, which includes representatives of Gen. Michel Aoun's forces and Lebanese Forces militiamen of Samir Geagea, and the three-man mediation team, the sources

ing the roads of the Dog River and people can now circulate safely," said mediator Chaber Suleiman, a prominent Maronite

g pay re attorney.
"If everything goes well, all roads in Kesrouwane and East Beirut will be reopened this afternoon or tomorrow," he said.

 Police said today they had requested help from Syrian soldiers deployed in West Beirut in locating a Turkish embassy guard kidnapped earlier in the week.

A police spokesman said Mehmet Sahin was kidnapped from his West Beirut residence on Wednesday

## Khaddafi fears war

Arabs can't stop Jew influx

CAIRO, Feb 24, (UPI): An Egyptian semi-official newspaper yesterday quoted Libyan leader Col Moammar Khaddafi as saying Arab states were no longer capable of using weapons such as oil boycott to pressure the United States into helping stop Soviet Jewish migration to Israel.

Khaddafi was also quoted as saying he did not think even an Arab summit could do anything to stop the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel, and expressed fears the migration could spark a new Middle East war.

Israel expects some 100,000 Soviet Jews to arrive this year, and as many as 800,000 over the next five to six years.

Although Israel has dismissed Palestinian fears of an influx of Jews in the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip, pointing out that only just over 100 Soviet Jews have chosen to settle there so far, both the United States and Britain have made clear their opposition to any settlement activity in the occupied

affect the ongoing Mideast peace What can Arabs possibly do.

if the United States has sanctioned the migration of Soviet Jews" to Israel, the semi-official Cairo daily Al Ahram quoted Khaddafi as saying in an interview. While Israel has welcomed the

move, many Arab governments believe the US government's decision to bar Soviet Jews from almost automatic entry into the United States after the improvement in US-Soviet relations, has given Soviet Jews little choice but to opt for Israel.

"Can they really punish America? If they could do that," then the migration would stop. But if they are not able to do that, then the migration will not stop, the Libyan leader, who held two days of talks with President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt earlier this week, said.

Khaddafi said Arab use of the oil weapon in the winter of 1973 against the United States and other Western states was no lon-



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watches as younger Soviet immigrants dance in a West Bank town. (Reuter wirephoto)

perhaps lead to something. Khaddafi said.

Arabs are capable of punishing America at present," he added.

#### Iran's chief justice urges speedy trials for culprits

NICOSIA, Feb 24, (AP): Iran's chief justice, Ayatollah Morteza Moqtedai, has urged prosecutors throughout the country to expedite trials for criminals, Tehran television reported.

Tehran television reported.

Moqtedais said at a press conference in Tehran that "aggressors against public security and the lives and property of the people will be given priority trials, out of turn, and will suffer the punishment for their deeds."

He added that "just as those who murdered the chief of the agriculture bank in

Hamadan along with his family were dealt with using determination and speed, prosecutors throughout the country are requested to act just as speedily and expedite the trials of aggressors against public security." Neither the incident in the northwestern Iranian province of Hamadan, of

lamic Republic News Agency, all monitored in Nicosia.

The fate of the murderers in the Hamadan case has also not been reported. But the head of Iran's judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, Monday

ndicated Iran was beset with a crime wave, and warned that armed robbers and murderers would be executed.

the last minute.

The Mujahedeen said in statements telexed from their Baghdad headquarters

that warnings by Iranian officials against "those who disrupt public security" are directed at potential demonstrators emboldened by the riot.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Behesht Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

Tehran radio reported Monday that 30 criminals involved in drug trafficking and prostitution rackets had been executed. The Mujahedeen said the hangings

were a warning to potential demonstrators. Iran's state-run media have reported more than 1,200 executions since

December 1988, most for drugs or prostitution-related crimes

since the launch of an anti-narcotics campaign but other crimes, except prostitution, generally have not been reported.

weapon against Israel

NICOSIA, Feb 24, (Renter): Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsun-jani says Gulf countries could use oil as an economic weapon against Israel. the Iranian news agency Irna reported

"The ... Gulf countries could deploy their oil and gas as a weapon to elimin-ate the Zionist regime," Irva quoted Raisanjani as saying.

In 1973, oil-rich Arab countries imposed an oil embargo on the United States and wesern Europe for their support of Israel in its war that year with the Arabs.

Meanwhile Iran's pro-government Tehran Times newspaper today urged Muslim countries to prevent the set-tlement of Soviet Jews in Israel a through a "co-ordinated diplomatic move and exerting pressure on those

Irna said the daily criticised the Iranian Foreign Ministry for failing to condemn the settlement of Soviet Jews

left Tehran yesterday after two days of discussions on the deadlocked peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

## Wield dollar weapon

Israel's plan to accept hundreds of

thousands of Soviet immigrants has alarmed Arabs, who fear the influx could bolster Israeli reluctance to return territory captured from Arabs in 1967, or even lead to the expulsion of the Arabs living there. "How can we explain America's

support for Soviet Jewish emigration to the occupied Arab territories other than by deducing that America does not want peace as it claims," Saddam said, taking a harsher line on Washington than either Mubarak or

"Peace is distant in the Middle East .... because American strategy requires an aggressive Israel rather than a peaceful Israel," the Iraqi Saddam predicted America access

continue "to work outside inter-nationally recognised limits" for another five years before it loses influence for lack of a Soviet threat to frighten its allies.

While he called for Arabs to use

their financial muscle to influence the United States, none of the ACC around. Egypt and Jordan are both coping with economic crises

second largest proven reserves of oil, it is financially drained by its long war with Iran Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Gulf states hold the bulk of Arab investment wealth. Saddam said Arabs should deal

realistically with America, "but America has to respect Arabs and their rights and not interfere in their internal problems." There is no room for a one-sided

friendship or a one-sided respect," he

Saddam said that a final semience of the eight-year Gulf war, halted by a 1988 UN ceasefire, 'may be far distant" if Iran does not respond to Iraq's peace offers. Saddam also criticised کا پائمته to

maintain its 41-year-old naval presence in the Gulf following the end of the war.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Maguid said today that Cairo was awaiting Israel's response to peace proposals agreed by Egypt and the PLO.

عیق عدنان اورخالد معران روس لوروی در ایدی که بازید کویت ک قوى دن يرا على حزر سيخ جابرالا حمد الصباح المركوب ولى ودوز يعظم في معد العبداللد المالم العبار ، كوي موام اور في من في معايمون كو ولحت مباوك ما د بميث كيت في .

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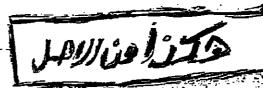
Bengali Songs

Chhaikaye Jaam (ind.)

(Sharabi Songs)

SILVER VIDEO

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#### patience as well as co-ordination of efforts with international and local parties. We are following this reach "he said." Salman's optimism stemmed from a statement made a sterday in Beirut by Sheikh Mohammed Luvein Fadiallah, the most influential Shate Muslim cleric in Lebanon, 5,000 Amal members

may not be immine at.

ioin Palah KUWAIT, Feb 24, (Kona): About 5,000 members of the Lebanese Shate Amai movement have joined the Palestinian Fatah commando

press report said here today.

Adaily new to que, quoting what it called "neutral source in South Lebanon" said the shift to Fatah was due to the financial, organizational and military west nesself. Amal as a result of the ice bottles it fought over the past few years against the Palestinians

According to the concest the wankness of the financial sources has greatly contributed to the do integration of Amal movement:

The sources sites ad that Amal is no longer a major mattery power in south Lebanem, and the Cae Palestin-ians and Heaboltch, and predicted that the coming few days would witness the "death" of the movement following the fading of mediation efforts with Berbollah and the resumption of fighting between the two Shine faction ..

'Biggest' COUSCOUS

RABAT, Feb 14. (Reuter): Moroccan c. e sesterday cooked 200 ch chem. To sheep and 1.5 toping of semolina in what they called the world's biggest cours on and invited

4,000 people to share it. Abderrahim Rargache, a local chef who runs a TV cookery programme, called in-100 assistants to prepare the couscous, piling it three metres high on a five-metre

wide earthering a dish. Orphans and the poor were among the guest int the meal seaside research Anadir.

Fadialiah, who recently returned from a leaders, spoke the day after an editorial in the Tehran Times, which usually reflects the thinking of President Hashemi Kafsanjani, called for the hostages to be freed. It was the first time an Iranian newspaper has made such a

Hostages will be freed, hopes Syria

"We have to think of finding realistic and humanitarian means to free the foreign hos-

Muslim holy day. The hostage issue "has been widely exploited by Western forces to harm the

tages" Fadlallah said in a sermon on the

who called for a new approach to free the umbrella for groups holding most of the 18 westerners missing in Lebanon. They are eight Americans, four Britons,

Kidnapped doctors in Brussels

wo western doctors, abducted three weeks ago by rebels in war-torn southern

Sudan, arrived in Brussels on Saturday after being released by their captors. Belgian Christine Van Haegenborgh and her Dutch boyfriend Martin Ruppert,

who work for the medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), were seized in a raid by rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. They were released

The smiling couple said they had felt in danger only on the night they were abducted and had been well-treated.

MSF's Belgian and French sections said shortly after the doctors' release they had withdrawn all staff and were suspending all operations in Sudan.

The longest held is Anderson, 42, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press. He was kidnapped in West Beirut March 16, 1985.

Salman told Say, in Damascus on her fifth mission to the Middle East seeking word of her brother and other hostages: "We have great hope now that we can work with all

He said that earlier statements from Iran and Shiite leaders in Lebanon about a possible hostage release "were not made in such a

UK journalist held in Sudan to be freed soon

Iraq pledge on rights: Ambassador Barzan Ibra-him Al Tikriti of Iraq yesterday stated that positive developments in the field of human rights in his country have been taking place since the ceasefure with Iran. Addressing the 46th session on human rights in Geneva, Al Tikriti said that these developments have reinforced the trend that underlines respect for human rights and fun-damental freedoms.

"We in Iraq are well aware of our obligations and rights in this field...human rights obligations are deep rooted in Iraqi thinking and can be traced a long way back to the Sumerian and Babylonian times." be added. (Kuna)

Syrian, Pakistani ministers talk: A Pakistani ster had talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara today about Afghanistan and events in the subcon tinent, the official Syrian news agency Sana said. It said senior Pakistani minister without portfolio Nusrat Bhutto also discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict and

Lebanon.
Officials said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had accepted an invitation to visit Pakistan. No date was given.

authorities have drafted 283 militant students into the army in a bid to end weeks of campus unrest by Muslim Those drafted were among over 580 students held for questioning this week after the Muslim militants occupied

Tunisia drafts militant students: Tunisian

university buildings and fought police in Tunis and the southern town of Sfax, the official news agency TAP said The authorities did however release Abdellatif Makki, the secretary general of the Tunisian General Students' Union, the Islamic group behind the protests, TAP said.

KHARTOUM, Feb 24, (AP): A British journalist held

since Wednesday for unexplained "security reasons"

will be released soon, a government minister said today.

Julian Ozanne, 25, of Nairobi, Kenya, was on assign-

ment in Khartoum for the London newspaper Sunday Currespondent when he was questioned on Tuesday and

ordered to report the next day to security beadquarters.

Ozanne also is East Africa stringer for Financial

Times, a London daily, and was to have gone to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Wednesday for that paper. Its

foreign editor, Jurek Martin, said in London that Ozan-

ne's hotel room was searched and notes and papers

Today, Sudanese Information Minister Ali Mohamed

Shummo said Ozanne was arrested "for security

He has been held since then.

was to be a solution to the Cyprus problem.

There is an urgent need on the part of Greek Cypriots to make radical changes in their negative attitude towards Turkish Cypriots," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

ting has been banned in Egypt by conservation authorities who have already put curlews and frogs on the list of endangered species.

The Middle East News Agency today reported the

Ozanne was suspected of doing. been investigating in Khartoum were the seven-year-old civil war in southern Sudan and the trial of five Palestin-

ians convicted in a 1987 bombing of a hotel in the

Seven dead in the attack included a British couple, both aid workers, and their two small children as well as a third aid worker, a teacher. A court hearing is scheduled for March 4 to determine whether the Palestmans should be hanged or be allowed to spare them-elves by paying blood money under the Sudanese sys-

concerned to secure the release of the hos-

image of Muslims," Fadlallah said.

He is the spiritual guide to the Iranianaligned Hezbollah, which is believed to be an

earlier this week.

and an Italian.

serious manner.

**MIDEAST BRIEFS** Yugoslav President to visit Egypt: Yugoslav

President Janez Drnovsek will leave on a three-day visit to Egypt on Monday, Tanjug news agency said yesterday.
His talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak were expected to further co-operation between the two Non-Aligned countries, especially in the economic sphere, it said. (Reuter) Algerian train crash: About 50 people suffered slight injuries today when a passenger trainslammed into a freight train in the Algiers suburb of Al Harrach, the

Algerian news agency APS said. APS said the passenger train, bound for the western city of Oran, caught up with the freight train travelling on the same line in the same direction and rammed it from behind.

The accident was due to a signalling error, APS said.

Turkey urges change in attitude: Turkey, throwing its weight behind Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash before UN-sponsored talks in New York, said Greek Cypriots must change their negative attitude if there

Egypt bans crocodile hunting: Crocodile hun-

governor of the southern province of Aswan, Qadri Othman, as banning the killing, capture or sale of crocodiles. Violators of the conservation order face a fine of 50 pounds

reasons, but his release is imminent. His papers are being examined and his release processed." He refused to specify the security reasons or what Martin said among sensitive issues Ozanne might have

## ger feasible. "Perhaps if the Arabs cut oil territories that might adversely

which Moqtedai gave no details, nor any other criminal cases of murder, robbery or rape have been reported in the state radio, television or the official

An Iranian opposition group, the Iraq-based Mujahedeen Khalq, has alleged that the warnings followed a "massive" anti-government demonstration in Tehran Friday in which it said at least 30 people were killed when security forces Irns reported that 30 people were arrested Friday in violence that broke out when a soccer match was cancelled due to bad weather. Fans who stood in line for hours waiting to watch the game were not informed of the cancellation until

The Muiahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it

Drug-related arrests and hangings have been highlighted in the Iranian media

Opposition organisations maintain that many political prisoners have been secured by the government on trumped-up drugs charges.

(Continued from Page 1) Although Iraq has the world's

supplies to the United States, and boycott it economically and politically, and switched to the friendship of the Soviet Union, or China, or Europe, this may

"But I don't think that the

# Wield oil

\*\* Oman's Minister of State for Froeign Affairs, Yousuf Bin Alawi,

# Jassar calls for pan-Islamic plan

International changes must be reciprocated

CAIRO, Feb 24, (Kuna): Kuwait's Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister Khalid Ahmed Al Jassar yesterday stressed the importance of formulating a strategic economic plan by which all Islamic countries should abide to face contemporary international changes

Jassar, who is currently here heading Kuwait's delegation to the third con-

Assembly Chairman Gen.

Garba, permanent represen-

tatives of friendly and sisterly states, senior UN officials and

top figures in the finance and media sector in New York.

KUWAIT, Feb 24, (Kuna):

Interior Minister Sheikh Salem

Al Sabah leaves here tomorrow

for Sharjah, the United Arab

Emirates, it was announced here

a high-ranking delegation will accompany Sheikh Salem who

will unveil the monument of

ISLAMABAD, Feb 24, (Kuna):

Badria Al Yaqout, wife of the Kuwarii ambassador to Pakis-

tan, was chief guest at the annual

certificate distribution ceremony

yesterday evening in Gujranwala city of Jamia Talimul Quran

Walhadith (Society for teaching of Quran and sayings of Prophet Mohammed) (PBUH) for girls.

Addressing the new graduates

inon guide and sationit"

Yaqout also donated

amount of rupees 20,000 to the

Minister Gerry Collins said in Bahrain today.

Kuwait in Sharjah emirate.

**Quran school** 

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An official statement said that

**Kuwait monument** 

ference of the Higher Islamic Council, which opened in Cairo yesterday, told Kuna that the conference is of great significance in light of present developments and rapid political and economic changes in the world,

He noted that the conference is debating several vital topics relating to econ-

omic, cultural and social fields. He asserted that the world, both Western and Eastern states, have witnessed speedy changes which Islamic countries should

reciprocate.
Those quick changes on the global level, should prompt formulation of a unified strategic plan to which all Islamic countries should adhere, especially in economic spheres for the interest of Muslim peoples, Jassar said in his remarks to Kuna on the sidelines of the Islamic gathering.

He stated that Kuwait's delegation had presented a working paper to the conference on means for facing current international economic developments.

#### NEWS IN BRIEF N. Day reception NEW YORK, Feb 24, (Kuna): tative to the UN Mohammed Abul Hassan hosted a reception here last night on the occasion of National Day. The reception was attended by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, General

Children's club at Mubarak

Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, Minister of Planning and Acting Minister of Public Health, opened the Children's Club at Mubarak Al Kabeer Hospital Thursday. The hospital's Patient Fund provides the club with toys and

#### Conscript enthusiasm

## Kuwait believes in combat doctrine: Jaber

DEPUTY Army Chief of Staff, Major General Jaber Khalid Al Sabah said that Kuwait is a complete defensive force and the army is part of that force.

on the occasion she said it was Speaking in an interview with their duty to not only recite the a local daily, the official said that Quran but also try to understand its message. Quran, Badria said, the army benefitted from the conscription and praised Kuwaiti men who leave their was an escape from all forces of evil and is a promoter of rightbusiness abroad and report to the The Kuwaiti envoy's wife told army.

the girls that they should treat the. Quran as their coulstaint company On the joint GCC man wartime.

Occurres, the senior official said... He went on to state that ocuvers or lecture one way or She said that the Quran gave maximum rights to women. another" and commented that which no other faith had given. Kuwait always participated in

> He added that Kuwait does not believe in alliances on the

crops early to take advantage of

high-prices at the beginning of

the season, while others would

do it in anticipation of

unfavourable turns in weather

conditions which could damage

He called on all farmers to

rationalise their agro-produc-

tion activities, so that the result

would not lead to saturation of

the market. He also pointed out

that the marketing process

depended heavily on the supply-

and-demand factor and that full understanding by farmers of this principle would provide them

better chances to market their

تثارت حمدالم كس

نزد لوکٹست کرفست

that the country only believes in "combat doctrine"

Speaking on the diversification of purchase of arms, he said that Kuwait is not a weaponmanufacturing country, therefore, it purchases its requirements from various countries to avoid being under the mercy of a particular supplier at

We benefit from every man-m-Kuwait does its utmost to provide the army with state-ofthe art equipment and provides training in the use of the latest military technology. Officers and personnel who have been trained abroad, have been highly

GCC-EEC foreign ministers to meet in March

praised by experts at these foreign institutes, the official

On compulsory military service, the major general said that Kuwait has benefitted from the experiences of other countries who applied these services and disclosed that it took kuwait eight years before the system could be approved and applied. The army is studing and evaluating obligatory service to upgrade: its performance according to instructions of the defence minister.

Commenting on the joint Gulf excercises that will be organised in Kuwait shortly, he said that they are beneficial for the armed forces of the Arab Gulf states.

medicine The agency said regional and international issues, recent democratic procedures.

#### No 'wasta' at traffic department, says Mai

HEAD of the vehicles driving test department in Hawalli Governorate Captain Fahad Al Mai has said that influence peddling (wasta) plays absolutely no role when it comes to passing the

He said the department receives over 200 applications from people aspiring to get a driving licence and the only reason they fail the test is because they are inadequately trained and lack self confidence.

Mai criticised applicants who accuse the test officer for their shortcomings by calling these accusations unjust. He further added that nervousness at the beginning of the test is common but lasts only a few minutes specially if the driver is well trained and confident that he will do his best.

Another reason applicants fail the test is because they completely ignore learning traffic signs, Mai said. He added that traffic rules in Kuwait are not respected and reckless drivers are on the rise despite the multifarious services offered to drivers. He also advised drivers to exhibit caution while driving.

#### Awadi leaves for Riyadh

KUWAIT'S Minister of Planning and Acting Minister of Public Health Dr Abdulrahman Al Awadi has left for Riyadh to take part in the 28th conference of Arab Gulf Health Ministers due to take place Tuesday. Awadi said that the conference

will debate several topics including public health, paralysis in children, meningitis, oral health and smoking in addition to the production of the Arab Gulf oint programmes.

Apart from the above, the minister said that the conference will debate other topics such as chemical issues, combatting noninfectious diseases, vaccinations and the member states joint procurement

The minister is accompanied by the assistant undersecretary for public health affairs and the ministry Dr Ali Al Saif, the director-general of Al Jahra Health Area and the secretary-general of Arab Gulf Health Ministers Council Dr Rashed Al Rushoud and the legal advisor at the ministry Mohammed Abdu Al Fitouh.

#### Time right for mergers: Sultan

## **Gulf Bank reviewing** organisational structure

CHAIRMAN of Kuwait's Gulf Bank Dr Abdulaziz Al Sultan has been quoted as saying that the bank is preparing a long term strategic plan aimed at reviewing its organisational structure and its operations in order to upgrade functional performance and boost the bank's role in the local market.

In an interview with a local daily. Sultan said that Joint Economic Committee's report has confirmed the government's insistence to counter all banking obstacles and to put the national

economy on its right path. He added that the recommendations included in the report concerning settlement of bad debts up to a value of KD250,000 will alleviate the present administrative burdens of the banking sector. He confirmed that investment funds accorded protection to funds of investors and minimises risks.

He said that many solutions had been adopted aimed at reactivating the stock market including allowing banks and companies to purchase 10 per cent of their respective shares. Mergers

Speaking on the issue of bank mergers, the official said that local and international circumstances were suitable right now to think seriously about such a measure, particularly if we know that the merger will reduce operating costs and enhance the competitive capability of local banks on the international level.

He however, added that the existence of numerous local banks will ensure a competitive atmosphere to extend the best

banking services to the public and will compel banks to

upgrade their performances. Sultan added, that any merger decision should take into account all the relevant financial and economic circumstances and it should be kept in mind that this decision should be decided by the shareholders of the bank and its board of directors.

Categories Speaking of the banking risks

classification, Sultan pointed out that these could be classified as two distinct categories. According to this system all the countries of the Organisation of Economic and Co-operation Development (OECD) which groups (about 24 countries in addition to some other countries that had concluded financial arrangements with the International Monetary Fund) have been described as countries who enjoy lower financial risks, although some of these countries were suffering indebtedness and according to banking criteria could be classified among the countries of high

The secound group comprises other countries including GCC countries (except Saudi Arabia) which have been classified as high risk countries. Sultan commented that countries particularly Kuwait and United Arab Emirates (UAE) were classified as creditor nations since they have restrictions on the capital flow.

Standing With regard to the financial standing of some banks, the official said that the weakness of the financial base of some Arab

banks particularly government ones, called for the merger of these banks in order to support its capabilities to meet international competition. He said that Kuwait banks were enjoying the necessary financial capability, and added that the Arab Monetary Authorities in general and the GCC in par-

restrictions imposed on Arab banks by these countries. Meanwhile, the official said that the Gulf Bank is striving to attract Kuwaiti personnel to join the bank, adding that this will not be done at the expense of the

icular should intensify efforts on

the European level to review the

performance level. He confirmed that the percen-tage of Kuwaitis working in the local banks is estimated at 20 per cent and the governor of the Central Bank had recently confirmed this percentage.

About 40 per cent of Kuwaiti employees working in the Gulf Bank were graduates and several held leading positions, Sultan

#### **Health conference**

RIYADH, Feb 24. (Kuna): Saudi Health Minister Faisal Hujeilan yes-terday said Riyadh will host next week the 28th conference of the council of the Arab Gulf health ministers.

He noted that the conference will be attended by delegations from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates as well as representatives of some international organisations.

The conference, due to be held on

Feb 26-28, comes within the fram-ework of the council's annual meet-ings, Hujeilan said.



**Anti-narcotics symposium** 

Within the framework of the awareness campaign on the dangers of narcotics organised by the Ministry of Education, a number of officials took part in a symposium held at the Al Bayan School for Girls. Officials included Major Yacoub Fadhala of the Ministry of Interior, Dr Nahed Maher of Kuwait University,

Dr Wafa Ashmawi of the Ministry of Public Health, May Al Naseef of the Psychiatric Services Dept and Zainab Hafez of the Social Service Department.

Major Fadhala spoke on the size of the narcotics phenomenon in the country and its link with other crimes.

#### Kuwaiti produce cheaper because of overproduction farmers would harvest their

BAHRAIN, Feb 24, (Reuter): Foreign Ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the six-nation Gulf Co-operation

Council (GCC) are due to meet in Muscat on March 17, Irish Foreign

The Gulf News Agency quoted Collins, whose country currently holds the presidency of the EEC, as saying the Europeans had agreed to a proposal for the meeting put by Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

Collins, who arrived in Bahrain yesterday night on the first leg of a

Gulf tour, was speaking after meeting Bahrain's Amir Sheikh Isa Bin

THE board member and managing director of the Kuwait Agroproduction Company Khaled Al Othman has said that the real reason behind the fall in prices of local produce was overproduc-

He told a local daily that the estimated quantity of tomato output for this season was 940 tons, whereas the amount produced during the last season was half this figure. He said, that frost-bitten

tomato crops last year sent the prices zooming and this led many farmers to grow vast amounts of tomatoes this year, and the result was a drop in prices.

Othman pointed out that some

changes ir Eastern Europe and co-operation between the EEC and GCC we: e reviewed. Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Sulman Al Khalifa and

his foreign and interior ministers attended the meeting which followed economic talks in Granada recently between officials from the two

The GCC, an economic and political alliance, groups Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and United Arab Emirates. Collins is expected to fly to Saudi Arabia later today.

#### New congestive heart failure drug launched

By Lima Ai Khalafawi

LISINOPRIL (Zestril) a new-long acting angioten-sin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor, is effective in the treatment of congestive heart failure (CHF) when given once daily in doses ranging from 5-20mg, according to Dr Paul Padfield, Consultant Physician from Edinburgh.

Padfield speaking at a symposium, organised by Al Bisher and Al Kazemi Group and ICl Phar-maceuticals at the Meridien Hotel, said that unlike Captopril, the effect of Lisinopril in CHF is not diminished by renal impairment (serum creatinine greater than 1.6 mg/100ml).

He added that in choosing an antihypertensive agent the clinician is faced with a wide selection. The conventional first line agents (B blockers and Thisaides may not be tolerated by up to 25 per cent of patients and many will require additional He said that it is almost 100 years since Robert Ligerstadts discovered the renal enzyme Renin. The discovery that the venom of the South American Pit Viner contained a substance capable of inhibiting ACE led initially to the development of the first orally active agent Captoril with its rapid onset of action but short plasma half life and subsequently to the production of once daily agents such as Lisinopril. It can be shown by non-invasive ambulatory monitoring to have a genuine 24 hour action.

Padfield added that ACE inhibitors are often combined with diuretics in clinical practice and it is important to note that metabolic consequences of diuretic therapy are ameliorated by ACE inhibitors. Side effects of ACE inhibitors are uncommon, apart from a mild dry cough but the potential for impairing renal function in the kidney to a renal artery stenosis has to be borne in mind. First dose hypotension in rare. The major advantage to the patient, is the major lack of subjective side effects. They are now included as first line therapy by many countries.





الاحصرت في جابرالاحمد الجابر الصباح اميرويت راعظم تشخ معدالعدا لندالسالم الصباح اوركويت تان رئيتورنط مرقب ونضبر 2407046 تندوري رئيستورنس مائير فضرر 5719509 شركة اسلام آباد مرقاب ونض تر 2402129

م کورت کے قومی دن پراحل صفرت شیخ حا برالاحمد لجابراهیها ج امیرکوریت ولی فدو زراعظم سنيع معدا لودالد المالم العباح الوي وألا وديك فيعايُون كود في مراكب باد بيش كرتي بن - اله يُزمر سند مُوقع يرخصوص بِينِّ حَمَّت س ر کسکو ۸۹ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ۸۹ • Disco -- 89 و • Disco Two in One (Farah. Kimi Katkar) ترر Best of Eighty's (80-89)(۸.٬۸۹) • Old Pak Punjabi Songs عَلَىٰ كُورُ وَالْمُهِ، Nasha Hi Nasha Bengali Songs (Colour) ■ Shahadat (Ind. film) Aditya Pancholi, Nita Puri ا دیتے پنجولی ۔ میٹایودی راوم پوری رمیریا بانقکسپ Om Puri, Supriya Pathak Pea Cock بدكك سلوروبيناث ليو

Silver Video Murqab Tel: 2403379

Golden Video Murgab Tel: 2405198

#### BANDAIN HEEST **Bahrain's development** potential to be assessed

BAHRAIN and America have agreed on a major venture to exploit the island's considerable industrial potential by boosting industrial activity with the formation of a number of vital plants as part of a long term plan to create thousands of jobs for the local workforce.

Dr Charles Hostler, US Ambassador to Bahrain, said that an elite team of international business executives from America will arrive here at the invitation of Bahrain Government to conduct feasibility studies and project profiles on the practical economic viability of cartain schemes in the island. The first fearn of experts are expected

The American ambassador stated that the work of the US 'trouble shooters' will be hard-hitting and totally objective in their assessment of development potential in Bahrain. The team, he added, belongs to International Executive Service Corps — founded by David Rockefeller — whose voluntary services are renowned for unbiased

The visiting American industrial experts, whose initial work will be completed in three months, will concentrate their efforts in the following spheres: The possibility of setting up a plastic products industry utilising raw material available from Bahrain or other GCC states. The project is stated to be particularly promising; Overall aluminium strategy with emphasis on downstream activities; Engineering potential — manufacturing tools, equipment and spare parts: Design of industrial complexes, Promotion of small industries and; Development of water resources.

#### **Diversification**

Bahrain's economic development policy is based on an intensive diversification programmes in view of its limited resources, dwindling oil reserves and increasingly competitive world trade market. The government has sought in recent years to develop the potentially rich non-oil sector of the industry, particularly encouraging private sector participation.

According to Dr Hoestler, America attaches strong importance to its relationship with Bahrain and is keen in increasing the industrial strength of the island which will be of interest to America and the res of the world. He said that the US has an outstanding political, military and economic relationship with Bahrain.

The American ambassador said that his country views the new venture as a significant step towards Bahrain's realisation of its economic diversification goal.

## **ARAB@TIMES**

#### Thought for today

HUMAN nature is very perverse, and we only care to hear of another's happiness when we are the givers of it - George Moore, Irish author.

## **US** effort crucial Afghanissue stalemated

BOSTON, (CSM): What once looked like the beginning of victory for the cause of freedom in Afghanistan now looks more like a political and military stalemate.

But even that stalemate could slide into a defeat unless the US makes a much more vigorous and flexible effort to reach peace, say a number of experts who have followed events since withdrawal of Soviet troops

The issue now is whether to continue current United States policy or to "pronounce it a failure and start from scratch," says former US

ambassador to Afghanistan Robert Neumann. US predictions early this year that the war would soon end, and the Marxist regime of President Najibullah in Kabul would collapse, were clearly off target. Fuelled by weapons from the Soviet Union, US, and Saudi Arabia the war goes on — in some ways more intensively than

Lacking both tight discipline and unity, the mujahedeen have been hard pressed to shift from defensive to offensive tactics and have scored no significant victories. Despite two coup attempts, Najibullah remains

#### Circumstances

Critics of US policy say it should adapt to circumstances. "Our principle interest was satisfied when the Soviets withdrew," says Rep. Anthony Beilenson (D) of California, head of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. "I don't think we should pull out and leave our friends (the mujahedeen) without support, but I do think we have to start nudging everybody towards trying to find a way to negotiate an end to all this."

Many, including the congressman, say an agreement to stop all foreign military aid to both sides in Afghanistan is a logical first step. The US first suggested it in March 1988 to the Soviets who turned it

the Soviets urge it, and the US rejects it. administration's reasons include new Soviet insistence on a and effective high the US says it could never deliver), and the advantage ..... pact would give to Najibullah. His regime is being inundated 443 \$250 million to \$400 million worth of Soviet weapons each month, ing powerful Scud missiles.

agit Afghanistan was discussed by US and Soviet officials both Wyoming mini-summit and at Malta, the US has said little about culic progress. "The discussions may have moved the situation along 'e bit." says Selig Harrison, a senior associate at the Carnegie ment for International Peace. But there are no strong signs that more prompted a genuine reappraisal of US policy, he says. The "essentially trying to find a way to salvage present policy,"

its continuation of covert military aid to the mujarighty as a political bargaining chip, rather than as the key to a colory. As one US official puts it: "The Kabul government agoing to roll over." The US also hopes the Soviet Union's are troubles may in time force cuts in aid to Kabul, and that time with a prospects for another coup attempt against Najib, as the and the salso known.

a "Vashington and Moscow say they want a political solution to that differ on the specifics. The US says it seeks no advantage ... Soviets, and desires no government hostile to them. The US ... cr. still support mujahedeen refusal to talk with Najibullah expire's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) about the and of a new government or any coalition that includes the former some chief and his top associates.

": den't deal with Najib and I don't think we should," says man. "He's a murderous scoundrel who has lots of blood on his hands. Every member of the resistance has friends and relatives who were killed by his security forces."

has Gouttierre, director of the University of Nebraska's Centre the Aighan Studies, says the resistance should not be asked to form a end a standard that can be accepted ... I believe that if the top of the PLON leadership could be skimmed off, the road would be open for the kind of negotiations that could end the war."

Despite a readiness to admit their intervention in Afghanistan 10 was also was illegal and immoral, the Soviets have shown no inclinathe a to compromise on support for Najibullah. They admit they are suspined and pleased at his apparent strength and say they cannot abandon him now.

Some analysts say the US should bend on this point. They note that Nambullah and his aides are not likely to be significant players in any final settlement. "Any genuine political process in Afghanistan will lead to the ouster of Najib - I think that's a certainty," says Barnett Rubin, a fellow of the US Institute of Peace.

Alternatives now discussed include a transition period presided over by Zahir Shah, the Afghan king overthrown in a military coup in 1973. The US. Soviets, and a number of Afghans would favour his return, but some Islamic fundamentalist leaders remember his rule repressive.

Another suggestion involves a coalition that would permit on the communist side those so-called "good Muslims" associated with the Kabul regime, but who may not be members of the party or the inner

For the non-communist delegation, the US continues to support the

#### TODAY IN HISTORY

- 545 Scots defeat English forces at Ancrum moor. : 1 - England's Queen Elizabeth I is excommunicated by
- .... England's Earl of Essex is executed for treason. . . . 3 -- Maximilian. Duke of Bavaria, is granted upper palatin-1. ly Roman Emperor Ferdinand II.
- \varinjlim Plobert Clive leaves India to return to England. and the of Ratisbon reconstructs German states under and Russia.
- 🖅 🧸 Germany annexes Tanganyika and Zanzibar. - Czechoslovakia.
- 154 Annel Gamal Abdel Nasser usurps power as premier
  - Simily president Chickekli flees following army
- - States vetos United Nations resolution deplor-attremation of Jerualem.
  - letter States cautions Soviet Union that continued ..... Ethiopia-Somalia conflict could Societ US relations.
- Philippaies president Ferdinand E. Marcos resigns. assen ov a "people's power" uprising, military revolu-
- and US pressure Pro-Iranian Shiite Muslims bury 23 militants killed by
- and soldiers in Lebanon, and claim they were "deliberately
- . -- acred" with axes and bayonets. 133 - Thousands demonstrate in Soviet Armenia desptie
- and the local authorities to restore order. 1989 — Philippines President Corazon Aquino vows to unite nation and "initiate the ways of peace."

#### W. Europe worried over one Germany

# Unification draws mixed feelings

BRUSSELS, (UPI): The slogans, only partly in jest, are many, each reflecting Western Europe's concerns over a unified Germany.

"We love Germany so much we wish forever there will be two of them," says a Danish politician with

Nato, the pundits say, was invented after World War II to keep the Americans in Western Europe, the Russians out and the Germans down.

And these days, usually deft diplomats are decrying the "ketchup effect" of German unification: Western Europe has been banging the bottom of the bottle, urging a splash of freedom, but ended up with

In other words, if you say you want something badly enough you just might get it. People who for decades advocated German unification (safely, they thought, seeing no realistic chance) now face it as an imminent certainty.

"Many people believe that unification is step one,

that step two will be a strong Germany militarily, and that they will then want to discuss borders," said one diplomat at the 12-nation European Economic Community.

Many disagree, maintaining the catchy sayings are merely the crutchwords of cynics, and the polls support the cynic-bashers.

A survey published several days ago found 68 per cent of the French population favouring unification, compared to 61 per cent in Britain, 78 per cent in Italy and 73 percent in Spain. Only in Poland did a majority oppose unification.

Still, many people who say they favour unification quickly add qualifiers, much like an American politician who swears off any tax increase but favours "other revenue enhancers."

It is clearly uncool in Europe these days to oppose

unification, especially among the young. The generation who lived through World War II is more outspoken. "We wouldn't be opposed to a unification sought

by the people, but European peace requires us to impose indispensable conditions for a new Germany (including) the respect for borders," said Michel Debre, the French prime minister from 1959 On the docklands of east London, sentiment

(Eric Boulton, 59: "Before long there'll be World War III. It's happened twice already") to historical resignation (Nick Hogan, 36: "It's Germany's own business. England was an aggressive power in the past, for hundreds of years. We all have our Although some world Jewish leaders have expressed reservations, citing lingering memories of the holocaust, Germany seems to be a non-issue in the

ranges from outright hostility toward unification

large orthodox Jewish community in Antwerp, Belgium. The streets there are filled with men in dark coats, dark hats and long beards. Many older residents have identity numbers tattooed on their arms, a grim reminder of Hitler's hell. "We are not thinking much about Germany,"

said Rachel Menczer, whose family owns a Jewish bookstore near the famed Antwerp diamond exchange. "We are studying the Toran and doing good deeds and what will happen is in God's hands." Adds another nearby Jewish merchant, "if they're

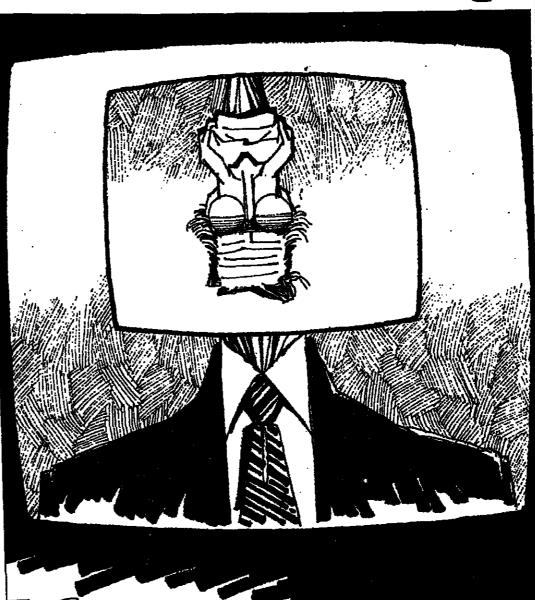
acting like normal people, why not be unified. We are more interested in the politics of Israel than Germany.' In West Germany, the heady enthusiasm over unification (one newspaper headline: "God bless our German fatherland") drowns out the few voices

expressing fear of future military might. One such voice is that of noted author Guenther Grass ("The Tin Drum"), born in Poland but living in West Germany. He rejects the concept of a united

Germany because of the country's Nazi past. "A modern crime of this extent — and Auschwitz was only part of it all -can only be done by a unified

state," he said on German TV.

Any cocktail-party argument against unification based merely on economic strength will quickly empty a room. West Germany is already, by far, the dominant economic power in Europe and will not "become" (the alarmists' term) a colossus by incorporating the crippled East German economy.



I WOULD LIKE TO BE INFORMED BEFORE THE SPLITSCREEN IS USED AGAIN BY THE NETWORKS, "

# Fears to be allayed

BONN, West Germany, (AP): In their weekend summit at Camp David, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President George Bush will have to confront Europe's fears about a reunited Germany.

The United States and its World War II allies concede that a single German state is inevitable following political upheaval across the Soviet bloc.

Kohl's government believes East Germany and West Germany — members of the rival alliances for four decades — could be merged this year into a nation of 80 But neighbouring countries are troubled by the rapid

moves toward a merger, with security arrangements and the final borders of a reunified Germany still unresolved.

#### **Territories**

his Christian Democratic-led government 'ill respect the 1945 Potsdam agreement that awarded German territories

to Poland and the Soviet Union.
For domestic political reasons, Kohl isn't eager to write, off these territories in advance of next December's national elections. This would alienate conservative voters and organisations like the 2-million-strong Association of Exiles from former German lands, whose support Kohl needs for re-election.

The conservative Christian Democrats were only a couple of percentage points ahead of the opposition Social Democratic Party in recent West German voters polls. And rightist support is crucial if Kohl is to fulfil his ambition of becoming the first leader of a united Germany.

pressure on the border issue this week by calling on the two Germanys to sign a peace treaty guaranteeing Poland's post-World War II boundries.

About one third of modern-day Poland was pare of the Third Reich, and was awarded to Poland after 'e Nazi lefeat. The Baltic area of east Prussia, now anown as Kaliningrad, was deeded to the Soviet Union.

Final pact
As separate governments, East Germany and West Germany have recognized Poland's boundaries in several agreements. But Kohl contends that only a unified Germany could sign a final pact that would resolve all ques-- including borders - left over from its World War

On Friday, Bonn government spokesman Dieter Vogel said Kohl had not responded to Mazowiecki's appeal because the border issue could be decided only by the Perliament of United Germany, not West Germany alone. At the Camp David presidential retreat this weekend, Bush may use the relaxed atmosphere to encourage Kohl to ease Poland's fears by giving assurances that the current boundary formed by the Oder and Neisse rivers would be the permanent frontier between Poland and Germany.

Kohl and some of his advisers have lately presented German unity as a faith accompli. Interior Minister Wolf-gang Schaeuble predicted that East Germany is likely to declare an immediate merger with West Germany after elections on March 18.

## Fear, suspicion haunt Romania

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BUCHAREST, Romania, (AP): Two months after the overthrow of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania is suffering from a paralysing legacy of fear and suspicion:

The interim government's hesitation it purging the bureaucracy of Ceausescu loyalists has fuelled a sometimes hysterical distrust among a people who endured 24 years of the Stalinist leader's harsh rule.

The suspicion exploded last Sunday in an assault on government headquarters at Bucharest's Victory Square by hundreds of demonstrators shouting "down with Com-

They smashed windows and ransacked the building, tossing copies of Ceausescu's books off the balcony, before the army reasserted control three hours later.

"We're living in an atmosphere of paranoia and suspicion," said a Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Everyone is pointing fingers."

Romanians are still exuberant about the Dec 22 overthrow of Ceausescu, who was executed three days later.

But many seem disillusioned by the interim government's decision to replace Ceausescu's ministers while leaving in place other high-ranking officials, who were required to belong to the Communist Party in the past.

"The chiefs of the ministries and factories have remained the old leaders - and they were communists," said a 60-year-old housewife in a fur cap in downtown Bucharest, who identified herself only as Helen. "We are in the same situation as before the revolution."

Even so, the National Salvation Front that took power after the revolution has taken: important steps toward freedom: ranging from: allowing demonstrations to letting Romanianis . fr

travel abroad. A see to cougain manual influence It has expanded the governing council it is a microst operation of the state of the

But the Front also has aroused sustinious? I with its heavy-habded dout of set state with the state of sep of finish with the sep of tratismilike sekermeihrrefolgenskrisies a mori Manakh su r exchange crash

Compounding the distrust is the new government's slow pace in investigating the Securitate, Ceausescu's pervasive, hated secret police

While the Securitate has been officially disbanded and its members transferred to regular military duty, only a handful have been brought to trial.

Vice-Prime Minister Gelu Voican Voiculescut told a reporter on Wednesday that there had been about 15,000 Separitate agents, but that authorities had no list of their names. A recent cartoon in a Bricharest daily news-

paper showed an agent with a bushy moustache disguised in the head scarf of a peasant woman.

#### Securitate

"The Securitate are still among us," he tells a woman, reflecting a commonly held view. Recriminations extend to those known or suspected to have belonged to the Communist Party, which is equated with Ceausescu and all the evils of his reign. A student at Bucharest's Polytechnic Ins-

titute said fistfights have broken out among professors accusing each other of having been Fears about the identity of the new leaders

has spawned wild rumours. One said that interim President Ion Iliescu was the college room-mate of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, whose reform brand of Communism is viewed dimly here.

The rumours get a broad reception in a country that has no history of democracy or a free press and shares the Balkan tradition of

"Before all Romania lived on foreign radios and zvonuri," said the Western diplomat, using the Romanian world for gossip. "They have no critical sense."

#### Rumour

The unconfirmed rumour that Interior Minister Miha: Thitac shot demonstrators during the December revolution fuelled protests last week by military officers. The officers also accused Defence Minister Nicolae Militaru of favouring communists.

The rumour that an anti-government demonstrator was shot by soldiers provoked last Sunday's rampage at government

The atmosphere of suspicion heightened as the government blamed the attack on hooligans, foreign agents and fascists.

About 5,000 miners descended on Bucharest on Monday to show support for the government after hearing the charges on television.

Diplomats say the desire to begin with a clean slate in Romania is an indication of the unrealistically high expectations created by the

"You can't change everything in two mon-ths," a diplomat said. "There's nobody to replace (the communists) with."

No organised opposition had existed under Ceausescu and Communist Party membership was a requirement for many jobs. Around four million of Romania's 23 million people belonged to the party, which has collapsed.

Romanians have seized on their new freedom to protest a myriad of grievances, ranging from low pay to government manipulation of the

But old fears haunt even those demonstrating in public. A man with a camera at a recent demonstration was accosted by about 50 people charging that he was working for the

"Go to Moscow. Go to Korea," they shouled, ignoring the man's cries that he was a

"Probably you have good intentions," an elderly man advised the photographer. "But the people are afraid."

#### Letters to the editor

#### Pakistan politics

SIR: Social science research has proven that there is an the attitude that people maintain. This finding has a lot of bearing on the realm of political beliefs and their verbal and conceptual manifestations. Politics, being the science that determines power-relationships among people, takes a particular note of the use of language in political discourse; therefore, prevalent lingo usage becomes of specific importance. Moreso in a country like Pakistan, here for the last four decades the masses have been endlessly attempting to radically alter the power-relationships amongst the different strata of Pakistani society. The people's overwhelming push towards democracy and their desire to cultivate democratic institutions is in itself symbolic of the aspirations of the desired socio-political changes. Would the mere fact of being able to vote an elected government into office change the power-relations within the society, or transform the existing authoritative and reactionary institutions into democratic ones? One way of making educated and scientific predictions regarding the anticipated prospect is to carefully study and analyze the contemporary use of

Language Language is the indicator of the sustenance of attitudes: within the cognitive and social milieu, sustentation of concepts (political and all others) is concrived and these concepts gain a life of their own analogous to living cells. Eventually, these constituted attitudes are manifested into conceptual and ideological doctrines. Hence, it is beyond common sense to imagine that out of morbid and conceptually stagnated attitudes could emerge an enlightened democratic polity. Rather than the birth of democratic principles, murder and mutilation of the democratic process can be anticipated when a society continues to use reactionary language and infected, gruesome political lingo. For out of dead cells, a healthy and ethereal life cannot originate. It is as simple as that. The insistence of a people not to let the rules of the game change in linguistic connotation is clearly indicative of the moroseness and stagnation of their attitudes; it is also an indication of the fact that the mere act of voting

will end up wasted and counter-productive to the genesis of democratic principles. The paranoia to the neoteric use of language is based on an incomplete comprehension of democratic requisites. Democracy flourishes only when diversity fideas is aired and is taken into serious consideration; conformity is not a noble ideal in democracy, in fact, diches need to be shattered and smashed; actually it ends up as a painful experience to realign one's attitudes and, therefore, form new concepts. Fears, preferences, gratitudes, sympathies, intentions, enres, approvals, disapprovals, appreciations, regets and nearly all human attributes of allegiance change meanings in a democratic society. Consequently, all the attitudinal changes have to be reflected in the

use of language, otherwise, there is no alternate way to find out if people are actually going through certain eptual reorient

For example, the usage of authoritative language and reactionary metaphors is reflective of undemocratic attitudes. It has been observed that in authoritarian societies, the use of language is predominantly loaded with value judgements. The emphasis is on compliance, consent, acquiescence, submission and agreement: disagreement is treated with contempt and suspicion. In addition, language orientation is specifically personality-related rather than issues-oriented. In other words, language usage by authoritatively inclined societies and people shows a remarkable consistency of political discussions centred around personalities, while a democratically oriented person or society gives vivid preference to the discussion of issues. In a related linguistic phenomena, language users in a non-democratic society demonstrate a great deal of bias, intolerance, contempt, extremeness, immoderation, exaggeration, an excessive usage of symbol-invocation, and an exhorbitant rhetorical style. There are vivid reminders of inflexibility on almost each and every issue, and the linguistic expressions are targetted at a rigid control of idea.

Evidence Analogous to these findings is the evidence found in hierarchical societies, i.e. political systems where hierarchy is of great importance. Clear examples of these socio-political systems have been the colonial regimes and the newly independent nations who have inherited much of the colonial administrative and institutional infrastructures. Language usage in these countries is loaded with flattery connotations and with

a peculiar, rather undignified flare of metaphors aimed at personality resplendence and magnificence. Let us see what is happening in the contemporary Pakistani socio-political-linguistic culture. Unfortunately, the trends do not indicate a solidarity of views with democratic postulates. The language, nearly in the whole of the political spectrum, is highly indicative of hierarchical characateristics and of non-democratic notions. Personalities rather than issues are at the centre of the political discourse; rigid control of ideas is paramount, and an inflexible allegiance to credible authenticity of one's respective political persuasion is

endlessly preached... This process is taking place in disregard of the merits or demerits of the contemporary issues with obese emotional investment; the phenomenal aspects of this behavioral pattern are clearly visible in the political lingo and, therefore, are vividly reflected in the

associated political attitudes. Consider for example the socio-cultural-politicallinguistic emphasis of a major opposition political party in Pakistan. They have capitalised on and have seized upon the phrase "woman prime minister" with emphatical stress on the word "woman" in their attempt to dislodge the PPP administration in

It is quite fascinating to observe that this party has chosen to completely disregard the fact that women

have been actively involved in Pakistani politics (for instance, Fatima Jinnah was opposition's presidential candidate against Ayub Khan), the pre-and post-independence movements, and the Indian subcontinent as a whole has had more than one woman prime minister. Added to this ideological dogma is the fact that this party has not taken the incumbent prime minister to task for the failure of her policy commitments. The prime minister, in her pre-election campaign, promised a socialist oriented economy and a change in Pakistan's Foreign policy (opposed to the

policy enacted by late Zia).

In both of these commitments, no visible signs have appeared as of now to suggest that the prime minister's administration is capable of impacting changes in the

Wouldn't it be more appropriate for the opposition to orchestrate a political backlash against the prime minister on the basis of policy failures, sparing her the attacks against her "womanhood" — and perhaps relegating the word's negative connotation into oblivion? The PPP administration, on the other hand, is

equally involved in campaigns promoting past cliches, and its political lingo is essentially loaded with emotional connotations, attempts at invoking symbolism, demonstrated incapacity for management oriented politics, and a lack of concrete evidence that this party will initiate the changes in the rules of the political Absence of linguistic appropriateness in politics

(and therefore in the resultant attitudes) is clearly visible at all levels and in each and every sub-level, subsystem, and sub-structure of Pakistam society. The political-linguistic discourse is definitely not of mature society, nor of a polity that is likely to move in that direction for a long while. It is more a reminder of the outbursts of a hierarchial enigma. What we really need in our attitudes is a metamorphosis of substance — particularly in our conceptions of power-relationships.

Nobody seems to be asking the appropriate question from the government and the opposition:
Where are the concrete resolutions of the people's

Where are the plans for people's deliverance from continued tragic deprivations Where are the answers? Where's the beef ....?

> Dr Haider Mehdi. Kuwait University, Showaikh campus.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or

حكادا فنالاهل

# Diplomatic wizardry

By Fathima Ahmed Arab Times staff

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KUWAIT is emerging as a diplomatic wizard with the experience gathered from its journey through what may be described as the most testing eight years of its history.
The Iran-Iraq conflict brought

about a perceptible shift in Kuwait's foreign policy, as it had to cope with an increasingly volatile situation in the region. Kuwait, sandwiched between

Iraq to the northwest and Saudi Arabia to the south — and only 100 miles from the raging battles on the warfront, was in an extremely vulnerable position, particularly in the last 24 months

In 1987, it suffered Iranian missile attacks on land; and its ships became targets at sea. A year later, it weathered an alarming number of acts of sabotage at home and faced terrorism, when KAC airliners were hijacked in 1984 and 1988...

Despite Kuwait's public and private wealth, economically it was drained due to oil-price fluctuation, the aftermath of the Manakh stock exchange crash and, more importantly, the drying up of its once lucrative reexport trade to Iraq, prompting the world press to dub Kuwait "as the hostage of the conflict."

The conflict was like a timebomb ticking in its face, forcing it to make a perceptible, but subtle, shift in its foreign policy to cope with an extremely volatile and vulnerable situation in the

Ever since its independence 29 years ago, Kuwait's diplomacy has been active and highly flexible. The leadership, in the early ears of independence, recognised Kuwait's vulnerability after claimed "Kuwait as part of

Iraqi" territory in 1961. "In that period Kuwait realised that solving problems by force is not always the best way to settle a dispute," according to a political analyst. At that time, the dispute was settled through

Arab League mediation. Kuwait's diplomacy is based on three overlapping principles: non-alignment with either superpower; opposition to foreign intervention in the Gulf and developing and maintaining friendly ties with both the East and the West. Broadly, these policies are also followed by the other members — Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain - of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC).

Kuwait's powerful Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah implements these policies with sophistication, panache and shrewdness. The longest serving foreign minister in the world (since 1978) Sheikh Sabah is described by experts as the shaper of force behind the shrewd policies

formulated by the state. Due to its strategic geographic location and potential threats both external and internal -and the demographic constitution where Kuwaitis are in a minority, Kuwait walks a tight rope. Its diplomatic efforts are two-pronged: to stay on good terms with as many countries as possible regardless of political complexion and to take principled stands on inter-Arab disputes.

For long, Kuwait was the only Gulf state to maintain diplomatic ties on an ambassadorial level with the Soviet Union, China and other East bloc states. It also has good ties with the Western states.

#### Support

During the Iran-Iraq war, the vulnerable position of the country was more pronounced, prompting Kuwait to spearhead efforts to rally world support. Aware of their modest military resources and the relative superiority of powerful neighbours like Iran, Kuwait and other Gulf states formed the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) to pool their resources and to take a collective stand on regional issues.

Kuwait's biggest diplomatic coup was during the war years when it managed to arouse world opinion, sympathy and support for its plight and that of its GCC



Sheikh Sabah: longest serving foreign minister

allies. Kuwait's oil exports benefitted from American and Soviet protection of shipping, and a general Western commitment to maintain free navigation in the Gulf. Politically, though belatedly, the world community demonstrated serious concern about "regional tensions" and made a concerted effort, through the United Nations Security Council, and passed Resolutin 598 ordering a ceasefire in the war. The Arab world also rallied around the Gulf states and backed Kuwait against external threats. Since the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war last year, Kuwait has rescinded its agreement with the US for reflagging tankers and six of the 11 have already reverted to the Kuwaiti flag.

Observers say that Kuwait's foreign policy is a complex balancing at involving the use of money (in the form of foreign aid), diplomacy and firm stands on vital issues confronting the Arab world.

According to one expert Kuwait "foreign policy is designed to add muscle to its. neutrality and non-involvement in inter-Arab and Gulf dis-

Due to its neutrality and its uniquely good ties with a number of states, it has an advantage in playing the role of a key negotiator in mediating Arab issues, like the recent move by the Arab League, delegating Kuwait to head a six-man committee to resolve the Lebanese crisis. In recent months, it played a crucial role in resolving the Turkish minority issue in Bulgaria. In the past it played a vital role in settling a border dispute between Oman and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

It takes principled political stands, vociferously backing Arab causes. A firm believer in "Arab solidarity", it has never shied from supporting the Palestinian cause, the uprising in the occupied territories and the Palestinian right to self-determination. And when the Palestine National Council declared an independent state, Kuwait was the second country after Algeria to recognise the state.

As chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, Kuwait is striving for Islamic unity and stronger co-operation among member states. It has also proposed the setting up of an arbitration panel — an Islamic court - to settle outstanding

Though "firmly committed" to the Non-Aligned Movement, Kuwait has shown a growing interest in world affairs. This was prominently noticeable in 1988 when HH the Amir of Kuwait addressed the UN General Assembly. In his speech, dubbed as an "historic document", the Amir praised the rapprochement between the two superpowers and put forth a three-point plan to resolve the "global debt crisis", which he said has become an "impediment to and severely

restricted development". The ceasefire in the Gulf war has ostensibly lifted the pall of gloom over Kuwait. One result has been the recognition of Kuwait as a country that can play a vital diplomatic role to

resolve regional issues. The government has consistently reiterated its policy of "not vielding to blackmail and pressure" and the country's leadership furnly believes in peaceful, diplomatic and political solution of issues rather than the use of



homeland, co-operation as its strategic path, tolerance as its motto, fraternity as its guidance, consultation as its modus operandi, justice as its rule, progress as its responsibility and peace as its goal.

HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed

## Bright future

"The Kuwait of tomorrow belongs to the Kuwaiti youth - men and women. The country is surging ahead to the bright future based on the confidence, will and determination of its youth."

HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, Feb 14, 1987.

LONG before the discovery of oil, Kuwait was a conservative, traditional society, strongly attracted to and influenced by the sea and the sand. Both played a significant role in shaping the country's social and economic structure. For centuries, a society built on simplicity, spontaneity and social cohesion flourished. This, however, changed with the discovery of oil in the heart of the desert, kindling a new kind of activity and a different sort of interaction between the peoples. The Kuwaiti government earned massive amounts of oil revenue which was used in developing and modernising the country. It also opened its doors "temporarily" to expatriate workers, who played a key role in the social and economic progress. The government reorganised and expanded key sectors like social services, health, education, housing, social security, public utilities and labour, thus laying the foundations of what is now known as the "welfare state".

As Kuwait looks ahead, the government has plans to diversify investments to seek alternative sources of revenue, restructure the population to reduce the gap and develop a national manpower base and build a strong industrial base. For the moment, the emphasis is on reviving the economic sector. Increasingly, the leadership is playing a leading role in world and regional affairs, particularly after assuming the chairmanship of the Organisation of Islamic Conference



HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah: looking ahead to an era of prosperity and progress

# Kuwait: seeking new markets in Europe, Asia

By Jadranka Porter Arab Times staff

KUWAIT'S efforts to expand its overseas refining and marketing facilities have met with less than in enthusiastic Europe, Asia and the US, slowing down its plans to double its own share in overall downstream sales. As it strives to wrench away a portion of the European market from its powerful rivals, Kuwait also tries to make inroads into the Asian marketplace and has designs on downstream facilities in the United States.

But few deals have been struck to match Kuwait's success in 1983 when the Gulf state began acquiring European refineries and networks. The move led to a network of 4.370 Kuwaitiowned service stations that currently distribute 300,000 barrels of oil products in nine European states.

When Kuwaitis moved into Europe they met with little resistance. The refining market was in the dolldrums and some of the majors, such as Gulf Oil (whose refining facilities were bought by Kuwait) withdrew from the European downstream. The steep fall in crude prices forced some refiners out of the sector or to seek a producer-exporter partner. "In the early 1980s demand for oil was stagnating, even declining, the market was not expanding and predictions about the future of oil industry and refining in particular were gloomy' explained one Arab

All this boded well for Kuwait which had long sought to control all aspects of its oil industry and had the money to do so.

Kuwait which opted for take-

overs as opposed to joint ventures acquired foreign downstream assets at a relatively low cost.

#### Competition

Its initial success in establishing a foothold in Europe, an important advantage especially when West European markets unite in 1992, whetted its appetite for new conquests. But as years passed the market conditions changed and Kuwait was coming up against more hurdles than breaks. Demand for refined products has been growing, refining operations are getting more profitable, and there is more optimism about the prospects for oil industry. Hence a reluctance to sell.

In Europe, Kuwait increasingly facing stiff competition from oil majors such as Shell, BP, Esso and Agip. Asia remains a tough market to crack and the United States, fearing further dependence on foreign



A petrochemical complex in Kuwait

oil, is paranoid about an Opec country penetrating their market

The main thrust of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation development strategy centres on Europe where it has targeted its expansion on Britain, Holland and Italy, markets dominated by oil majors.

In Britain, where KPC has 1,270 service stations, Kuwait's goal is to raise its share of the retail market from the current 2.5 per cent to 8 per cent. KPC which currently holds 5 per cent of the market in Holland and Italy has not set an upper limit for its expansion.

Few details of the plan are available but it is understood that among the new measures is an increase in the number of retail outlets and their capacity which will reduce the transport costs. The plan hinges on a more efficient running of the entire operation to lower the costs at a time when KPC pushes for

higher sales. In a bold move to boost its plans the company has bought two lube-oil companies, Carless Lubricants Ltd in Britain and a smaller firm in Italy.

#### Operations

"Lubricants offer the highest profit margins on product sales. We are a producer of base oils which serve as feedstock for making finished lubricants. Our goal is to reach the consumer end of the market" one KPC executive has said. Among other Kuwaiti oil products on sale in Europe are gasoline and jer fuel with gas oil diesel being the best seller according to total sales figures in the British, Dutch and

Italian markets.

Parallel to the development of its European operations, KPC is studying opportunities in Asian markets. Thailand is the only Asian state to have responded to Kuwaiti plans to market its oil products there. Kuwait signed a deal last year with Thailand to explore for oil, develop a network of service stations and supply oil products in aviation.

The Philippines, once a serious contender on Kuwait's target list, is no longer an option as the government of Corazon Aquino decided against selling a portion of its refining and marketing operation.

But Kuwait's major target is Japan whose market remains closed to the Opec producers, its major crude suppliers. But recently Japan, which has maintained a deep mistrust of Opec after price hikes in the 1970s, said it was ready to open its huge domestic oil products market to Middle Eastern producers in exchange of guarantees of stable oil supplies in the 1990s. This may have come after some arm twisting from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which is also intent on expanding its overseas downstream operation. Their bargaining chip is not only the steady crude supplies but also the contract with Japan's Arabian Oil Company, that produces crude in the neutral zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Its concession is due for renewal at the end of the century and the Arab signatories may move to implement the concent of integration which forms part of the contract. Indeed, Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah has said as much.

"They are our partners here, why shouldn't they be our partners there?" he was quoted as saying last year. Although the Japanese said there would be no obstacle to oil investments by the Gulf states some analysts were quick to point to the practical difficulties in establishing a profitable distribution business in Japan. They say that half of Japan's petrol stations are making losses and that refining and retailing are two different industries. They suggested joint ven-

operation. Control

tures as most feasible form of co-

But if Kuwait remains faithful to its own style of operation it would want to go it alone. It has always looked for opportunities to buy refineries and take over marketing companies. It has not responded to joint venture proposals from Eastern Europe but made at least two bids, unsuccessful though, to buy refining and distribution facilities in the US. Their insistance on full acquisitions, which at times seems to harm their prospects for overseas downstream expansion, stems from a desire to have full control over their refining and especially marketing operation.

If you want control then you don't go into joint ventures" said one analyst.

Sheikh Ali said last year that Kuwait shied away from joint ventures, a policy which in his view has paid dividends. "Now we are in a position where we have a nice international system with good staff, with an organization we are comfortable with, completely internalized, with no partner to quarrel with in terms

of which area to develop ..., with no conflict of interest with anybody," he was quoted as saying. Analysis say that Kuwaitis insist on making all decisions in

strategy. "Joint ventures in exploration and refining rely on cost sharing. But marketing is a much more creative area and there is large potential for a difference in opinion on how to win a market. It is difficult to find two companies which would agree on marketing objectives" said the KPC executive.

shaping its own marketing

Kuwait's individualistic approach has often prompted comparisons with that of Saudi Arabia which set up a joint venture with Texaco US in 1988 gaining access to more than 11,000 service stations in 23 states.

Analysts claim that the joint ventures was the result of a political decision based on a special relationship the Saudis have with their Aramco partners. In fact Texaco, which then suffered severe losses, needed the Saudis as much as the Saudis, with their downstream drive,

needed the Americans. Rather than seek to be entirely in charge the Saudis thought it was no small feat to win a strategic foothold in the US market and a right to have a say in the debate about the future of the oil industry.

It was in search for guaranteed export markets that both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia sought to acquire foreign downstream assets but each country looked for a different set of side benefits. For example the Saudis, who have many more nationals work-

ing in their oil industry than the Kuwaitis have in their own, are using the joint venture to groom a new breed of professionals modelled on the American pat-

"For the Saudis the joint venture is part of the learning process," said one analyst.

Kuwaitis, he said are content to occupy top management positions, and hire foreign profes-sionals for specialised jobs. On the other hand Kuwaitis are extremely proud of selling under their own brand name, Q-8, and scoff at the Saudis whose name does not even figure on their petrol stations in the US. As both countries seek to

move into the new markets they are painfully aware of the resistance and suspicion they face. Japanese analyst have already

noted with some trepidation that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia want to extend their control of crude prices to the refined products. The Americans did not hide

their concern when the Saudis struck a deal with Texaco. They resented their growing dependence on foreign oil, called for the protection of their own battered oil production industry and feared the producer will indulge in discounting crude and product Success

"All this noise about the threat Opec members pose with their investments in the US is a lot of balooney," said one Kuwait-based analyst. "European countries account for about 90 per cent of the total foreign investment in the US oil industry.' This has been confirmed by

Pierre Terzian a Paris-based oil expert. He was quoted as saying last year that at the end of 1988 Opec controlled about 8 per cent of refining capacity in the US. And speaking of the four oil

producers' (Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Libya and Venezuela) share in the European downstream he said they represented together the equivalent of a company about the size of Agip in the EEC oil market.

Nevertheless, both Kuwaitis and Saudis sought to reassure their hosts, emphasizing their commitment to their partners' markets. And they did so with a certain amount of success. Said the Kuwait oil executive who until recently headed KPC's European operations 'European Economic Commun ity now says that if all oi producers acted in the same man ner as Kuwait, they have nothin to fear. We have long-term interests in Europe. When you sell crude you are committed to

customer. Our commitment i

Europe is to the market." Japan

are you listening?



Planners feel dependence on expatriate labourers will curb the development of the national workforce.

"Building up the modern state must be accompanied by building the Kuwaiti individual and preparing him for the challenges of

HH the Amir, Feb 14, 1987

in the military, judicial and

diplomatic services.

Planners are worried about the

role of foreign labourers in the Gulf countries. In a recent study Iraq warned Gulf states of the so-called

"dangers posed by foreigners in Gulf and Arab societies." Such

fears are also voiced by Kuwaiti

sociologists, who feel that a drastic

change in the demographic struc-ture must be made to offset the influence of foreign cultures on

The government's clearcut

strategy is to reduce dependence on

foreign workers by encouraging

educational and awareness cam-

paigns to appreciate the value of work and imbue the young genera-

tions with a lesser reliance on gover-

The most important step to

regulate the flow of manpower was

the March/1989 amended labour

law, tightening the rules for the

nment as a distributor of wealth.

their country.

employing nationals.

# Stress on reducing the gap

By Fathima Ahmed Arab Times staff

LIKE other Gulf states, Kuwait, has depended on expatriate manpower to push forward its various developmental schemes. Between 1975 and 1985 the labour population of Kuwait grew dramatically by 71 per cent, mainly due to an open-door policy.

keep its doors open, say planners, who are putting the final touches to a long-term strategy to reduce the population imbalance. Kuwaitis form 28 per cent of the total population, and constitute only 14 per cent of the total work-

But, Kuwait now can't afford to

force. The rest is made up of foreign workers from Arab, Asian and European countrie The problem of population has been created because of an influx of migrants. Kuwait needs a selective

immigration policy more than any other country," said Fuad Mulla Hussain, secretary-general of the Higher Planning Council. Basically, the government wants to curb migrant flow by selecting

the type of workers required by the economy. For example, Kuwait requires 3,000 doctors, it has only

Ever since oil wealth transformed the economy expatriates — or foreign workers — have been play-ing a vital role in the country's elopment. Planners believe that the country would need expatriate manpower, at least, for the next 25

Composition

The Higher Planning Council is working on the next five-year plan, to be completed by March, outlin-ing ways to reduce the imbalance. A balanced population is the need of the hour. And as such, a bigger role for the Kuwaitis is envisaged in the economic fabric, particularly in the private sector, which is presently lominated by expatriates. Expatriates make up 86 per cent

of Kuwait's workforce, holding a virtual monopoly in the construction, trading and manufacturing sectors. These sectors account for 44 per cent of the total foreign workforce in the country. Nearly 43 per cent of the expatriate labour is concentrated in the service and per-



Students training to join the active workforce.

During the decade from 1975 to 1985 there has been a dramatic change in the labour composition in Kuwait: Asian countries, which have an unending supply of cheap and efficient labour, became major exporters. India and Pakistan, longterm development strategy. hich held sway over the labour market, began competing with the Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka and to some extent Indonesia and Thailand. The Far Eastern countries jumped into the market with relatively cheap and equally efficient labour. The labour market became highly competitive with Asians nearly doubling their numbers from 20.97 per cent to 42.19 per

49.17 to 37.72 per cent.
A study done by Kuwait's Central Statistical Office in 1987 says that "most part of the economy would not survive without the import of the foreign workforce."
This is not surprising, considering the low density of the native population, and the relative inactivity of the productive labour force. In comparison with non-Kuwaiti activity rate of 53.5 per cent; Kuwaitis attain only 18.6 per cent. largely due to a large percentage of nationals being underaged, and studying and the relatively low nale participation in the work-

cent. The Arab numbers fell from

Concern is mounting about the

imbalance between the national and foreign workforce. Foreigners account for 72 per cent of Kuwait's total population of 1.9 million. The demographic imbalance, which emerged in 1975, is the key issue of the recently proposed provisional

Kuwaiti numbers rose by about 12 per cent between 1985-1988. However, there was a slight increase in the number of expatriate manpower over the same period. Kuwaitis in 1988 were up by 1.8 per cent from 40.14 per cent in 1985. according to a field survey done by the Ministry of Planning. In the same year (1988) Kuwaiti workforce rose from 18.9 per cent in 1985

To reduce dependence on foreign manpower, the government has taken several steps, such as allocating a sum of KD29 million to the Civil Service Commission to create iobs for the Kuwaitis. Over the last four years, about KD100 million has been spent by the government to employ Kuwaiti graduates.

The government plans to trim the number of foreign public servants and reorganise the bloated civil service. In 1987, the total number of civil servants were 160,294. Of these 76,429 were expatriates, excluding those holding special occupations gent controls, some officials say, have curbed the flow of migrants. Import

Employers have been urged to 'look within the country" and then in Gulf states before importing foreign labourers. The repercussions on business are severe, businessmen say. Import of cheap labour enabled firms to cut costs; now this cannot be done as the prevailing market rate salaries will have to be paid if nationals are employed, they

The free flow of labourers in the market has been restricted under a rule that prohibits transfer from one sponsor to another before completing three years service. Exception to the rule are those workers who have

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stayed in the country for 10 years.

Such measures will help to reduce the imbalance, but it will take a long time for that to happen," says a UN advisor attached to the Central Statistical Office.

He says the manpower problem in Kuwait is two fold: shortage of national labour force and its low productivity; low female participation. Kuwaiti women form 13.4 per cent of the total national workforce.

The government policy is also two pronged: firstly, to increase productivity and secondly, to discourage permanent settlement of foreigners.
Efforts to improve productivity

of Kuwaiti manpower include improving their occupational and sectoral mobility: stress of vocational training and redefining social welfare schemes.

Stringent controls on migrafich imposed during first five years plan

nationals to replace them; revive motivation among nationals and The plan has been put into action. (1985 to 1990) to reduce pepulation imbalance have begun to show results. Officials say that the growth One of the latest moves, the biggest drive so far, is to encourage the private sector to give jobs to of expatriate manpower dropped from 7.5 per cent in 1985 to 3.8 by 1988. National manpower, during Kuwaitis, by giving government subsidies to those companies the same period, rose by 4.3 per Another strategy is to change attitudes, through a series of

Planners expect a demographic balance to emerge by the year 2000. Some planners, however, are scep-tical. Despite the difference of opinion, all agree that it is imperative to reduce the wide gap between nationals and expatriates. Planners admit this cant't be done overnight But say, the first step towards achieving it has been taken.

## Sprucing up the money market

By Jadranka Porter Arab Times staff

KUWAIT has pulled out from its archives one of its pet schemes and hopes it could turn it into a panacea for its ailing banking

But analysts suspect that bank mergers, the latest in a string of hotly debated proposals aimed at boosting the sector, may end up, like some other schemes before it, back on the shelf.

Whatever has happened to Kuwait's free trade zone and its transformation into the regional financial centre, they ask.

They recognise the potential for growth through mergers but have doubts about the calibre and management style of top executives who would be entrusted with putting the scheme into action. They question the logic behind plans to merge small inefficient banks into what could easily become one big inefficient bank. They urge the authorities to dismantle banking controls and open the market to foreign banks. This, they say, would drastically improve efficiency and encourage mergers.

Barely two months ago some of the top brass spoke about mergers with finality. It was the ques-tion of "when is the signing ceremony," noted one observer.

Today the top executives deny that they came so close to making a deal. And with a good reason, too. For just as the finance houses were getting serious about blending their operations someone pointed out that the whole thing is illegal. Mergers had to be put off until legal framework for the scheme is devised. How long will that be is anyone's guess. If passing of the legislation on mutual funds is any indication it might take rather long. A year ago it was announced that the law was ready and was only awaiting a formal endorsement. It has not been passed yet.

Most bankers agree that mergers make sense, especially in the overbanked Kuwait. Arguments in favour say that Kuwait could benefit from having bigger banks, with larger deposit base and assets. Successful mergers could combine the services whereby the weaknesses of one merged bank would be compensated for by the strength of the other. Mergers would improve Kuwait's banking image and

strengthen its banks' position on international markets. And although they could lead to staff reductions this could be avoided if the banks took on new functions. Natural attrition as well would take care of some of the staff reductions. "Mergers are possible without too much bloodletting" said one analyst.

The idea of bank mergers has been around for years. But it was never seriously considered partly because it implied forcible redun-dancies. Also, the scheme never captured the imagination of Finance Minister Jassim Al Khorafi and for a long time it did not have the backing of the Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah. The promoters of the concept, however, managed to win Sheikh Salem over.

He recently said mergers of the commercial banks will be among the factors that would ensure a better use of Central Bank subsidies. Mergers, he said, would boost the financial position of these banks and give them a competitive edge in foreign markets.

The authorities are particularly concerned to see the National Bank of Kuwait, the only commercial bank that firmly stands on its feet and can compete abroad, merge with a smaller bank. But the well managed and prosperous NBK sees no urgency for such a move.

Indeed as the chairman of the Bank of Kuwait and Middle East Ali Rashid Al Bader noted recently merging of local banks will be "a very difficult task faced with many obstacles."

Analysts claim that for mergers to succeed the top executives will have to show a lot of good will, some oversized egos would have to be trimmed and rational and business-like decisions would have to prevail over political manoeuvres and personal response to professional

To serve their purpose mergers should improve the efficiency of merged banks and their quality of service. This inevitably raises questions about management skills in Kuwait's banks. Over the years Kuwait's bankers have privately complained about inef-ficiency and high-handed manner displayed by those at the top of the hierarchy. They say there is no shortage of professionals in the country. But mostly autocratic board directors have yet to learn to ask for their opinion, listen to their advice and invest them with authority that would match their respon-

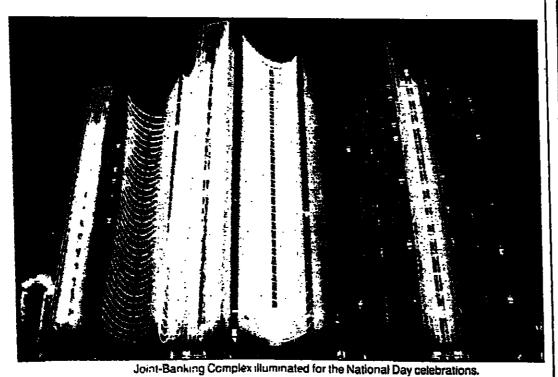
"Many top professionals are being treated as senior clerks," said one observer. "Banking is about people and using people

What the reasonably comfortable and protected banking sector needs is a sort of rude awakening. And what better to lick it into shape but a fresh dose of real intense competition. Analysts however question the type of competition that exists in

Notwithstanding that the banks enjoy snatching business from each other they also act in collusion, as a cartel, with a tacit approval from the Central Bank. For a man in the street, as my little poll has revealed, they are all the same. Many people choose a particular bank for reasons other than its superior

service or product range. To improve their efficiency and be competitive on foreign markets, as is Sheikh Salem's desire, the local banks would do well to first prove themselves on their home ground against foreign banks, according to some analysts. Some bankers would like to see the system of banking controls dismantled and true free market spirit, Kuwait purports to embrace take root.

Faced with foreign competi-tion local banks would have to raise their standards of service. Mergers, in such conditions, could become a necessity for some, as only with combined strength would they be able to protect their turf.







Sincere greetings and best wishes

To His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah Amir of the State of Kuwait

And His Highness Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah Crown Prince and Prime Minister

and to the government and people of Kuwait on the occasion of

**29TH NATIONAL DAY** 



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# Kuwait's motorways and roads among the best in the Gulf



#### Extensive road network links major suburbs and new towns

#### **Arab Times report**

THERE is one car for every three people in Kuwait, according to a traffic survey. It said there were 543,615 in 1986, the year when the survey was done. That year, another 44,328 new vehicles were registered by the traffic department. Despite the large number of cars on the roads, the accident rate has fallen steadily over the years, due to stringent controls and well-planned roads, it said.

Kuwait's motorways and roads are said to be among the best in the Gulf. Kuwan has more than 3,800 kms of interchanges and flyovers, including 160 kms motorway. The average width of a road is about 10

Kuwait's planners in 1972 prepared a master plan in recommending a complete redevelop-ment of the road network to facilitate speedy and smooth traffic movement to and from Kowait City, hinking major suburbsandareas in the country. "The plan, based on an estimated tarban growth over a period of 20 years; envisaged an effective foad system to link satellite towns and confinercial

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A loop around Kuwait City is to be built to act as a wheel whose spokes will link other parts of the

The First Ring Road will be extended to surround Kuwait City, beginning at Jahra Gate to serve as a sort of inner ring road from the Sheraton roundabout



Roads: yesterday and today

along the present road leading to Dasman roundabout, running northward toward the souk area. It will run parallel to the Arabian Gulf Road. This network is expected to minimise traffic congestion in the city area.

This is part of an intensive road construction programme, begun in 1977, is expected to be completed by the end of this year, extending the motorways to about 360 kms. The network comprises: 150 flyovers, with a concrete bridge and tunnel each one kilometre long and 30 pedes-trian crossings. These networks are expected to cost KD600 million. In 1986, a budget of KD300 million was allocated to expand the network.

The road network has been designed like a wheel, whose spokes are expressways and motorways leading to all parts of

The first spoke of the wheel from the east is the Fahaheel Expressway, which has been upgraded to the level of a motorway. Parallel to this is the Maghreb motorway, which meets the Assafar motorway leading to Ahmadi and beyond to the towns of Khairan and Nuwaiseeb.

Next comes the Riyadh motorway, running from the south from the First Ring Road to the Fourth Ring Road. Intertwined with flyovers, this motorway snakes it way across 5 kms and was built at a cost of KD16

Then comes the Ghazali Expressway, running from Shuwaikh Port to the Sixth Ring Road. Another road links Sabah Hospital to the Sixth Ring Road.

The Fahaheel, north and south, was opened in 1988. The 21.5 km north road runs from the intersection of the Fahaheel motorway with Fifth Ring Road to Mahboola. It includes a part of the Sixth Ring Road to the Assafar motorway. It was built at a cost of KD23 million.

The southern link begins at Mahboola and extends to the intersection of the Fahaheel motorway with the Mina Abdulla-Wafra road. The 20 km roadway, with seven flyovers and six pedestrian bridges, was built at a cost of KD23.7 million.

The Jahra Road becomes the Jahra motorway, with an interchange leading to Doha, eventually linking the new Subiya

The Fifth Ring Road, running from Sulaibikhat links the Fahaheel Expressway, and the Sixth Ring Road runs from the Messilah roundabout to Doha and joins the Jahra motorway, extending to Jahra and the Subiya

There will also be three parallel roads, running east to

The 29 km Seventh Ring Road runs to the north of Fintas, inter-

secting with an external road. This was built at a cost of KD16

The Istiqlal Expressway from Kuwait City to Wafra, later to link an international road, is now under construction. This network is expected to provide an uninterrupted flow of traffic from the heart of Kuwait City to the south of the country.

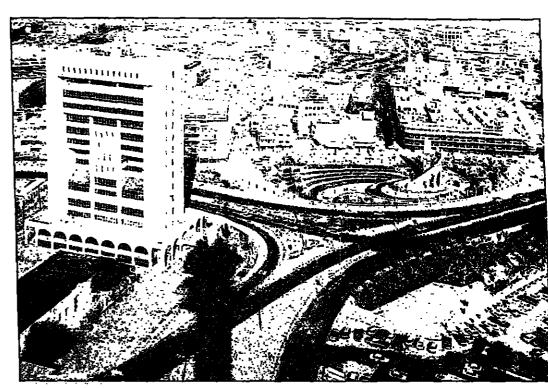
Other projects are linked to the Istiqlal Expressway. These include linking the eastern part of the Sixth Ring Road-Fintas to join Assafar motorway to the north and south of Fintas. This project is estimated to cost KD65

The outer-bypass network swings all the way around Kuwait to link Kuwait with its neighbours — Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The first 118 km dualcarriageway extends as far as the Iraqi border; the second 95 km road goes west towards Salmi and the Saudi border; the third 107 km road runs south toward Nuwaiseeb and the Saudi border. This network is an extension of the motorway linking Kuwait and Mina Abdullah and the oil industrial centres. This network is used by heavy trucks and transit traffic.

Kuwaitis are justifiably proud of the technical excellence of the road system, notably the multilevel interchanges and flyovers, which enable motorists to carry on their love-affair with the automobiles, while, hopefully restraining their passion for speed in the interests of safety.



Above: Safat Square in the 1950s: (below) after re-development in the 1980s.



## Co-operative spirit strengthens FROM a movement started in a

school, the co-operative societies all economic and social activities The seeds of the movement were sown 50 years ago, when in 1941, the Mubarakia School set up its first co-operative. In the early fifties, other schools followed its example and set up similar co-ops with students contributing utensils and food for sale. At the end of the year, the profits were divided among the shareholders.

From this experiment, emerged the wider concept of the cooperative movement. The cooperative spirit was prevalent among the people of Kuwait long before the 1940s, inculcated by their social values based on Islamic teaching which urged co-operation and cohesion. The harsh living conditions in the pre-oil era also forced the concept of economic and social co-

operation.

After the success of the school co-operative experiment, the first such society was formed at the Social Affairs Department in 1955. This was followed by a similar one in the educational

department. However, following Kuwait's independence in 1961, members of the Constituent Assembly gave particular importance to the idea of co-operatives and included an article in the country's constitution committing the state to encouraging co-

operative movements. After the issuance of the first co-operative law, the first cooperative society was formed in 1962 in Keifan. This was followed by Shamia, which later merged with the Shuwaikh one, and then the Dasma society was formed in 1964.

In 1979, Law No. 24 was issued including new rules and regulations to cope with the development of the country's cooperative movement. Four kinds of co-operatives

are currently active in Kuwait including consumer, agriculture, production and marketing and the saving co-ops. Some 40 co-operative societies

spread their supermarkets over most areas of Kuwait providing food and other consumer items to the public with a membership of 161,358 citizens. The co-ops further supply con-sumer products subsidised by the government and allocate 20 per

cent of their profits for spending on their suburb's social, cultural and entertainment services. The societies, which created their union in 1971, supply 70 per cent of the society and the

individual's needs of services and

The first co-operative was set up at a school; today, there is one co-op with several branches in every suburb

The co-operative movement in Kuwait has grown beyond expectations and is now a part of the country's social and economic fabric. Kuna spotlights the growth of the movement over the decades....



Co-operative societies have become an economic pillar

As for the agricultural co-ops they manage 665 plantations (1987 data) while the animal

production co-ops manage 2835

piantations (1988). The co-ops cover a portion of the local market's needs of a a capital of KD8.960 grouping all Kuwaiti civil servants of both The society targets elevating its members' economic and social levels by way of providing them with a sum of money at end of their service, or if they were fired or suspend from work because of illness or other

number of products. According to 1986 statistics, they supply 45 per cent of eggs, 40 per cent of poultry, 25 per cent of fresh milk,

39 per cent of tomatoes, 20 per cent of vegetables, 11 per cent of

mutton and 6 per cent of beef of the overall domestic needs.

climatic conditions and short

period of existance are taken into

consideration and demonstrate

future prospects of food security.

production and marketing was established in 1984 to co-ordinate production and consumption by directly link in the production societies to the local market.

The co-operative society for savings was created in 1965 with

The co-operative society of

The figures are high if the

The co-operative movement in Kuwait, despite its relatively short life has secured economic and social accomplishments surpassing expectations. It has helped in fair distribution of the country's wealth, contributed in boosting local products and national exports and endorsed the value of co-operation and cohesion in the Kuwaiti individual.

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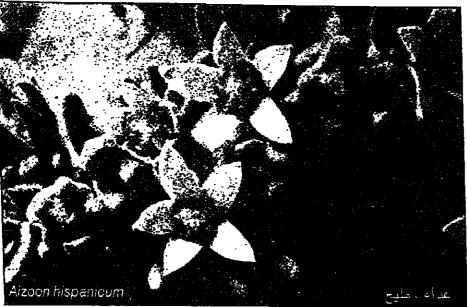
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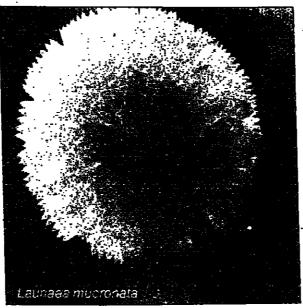
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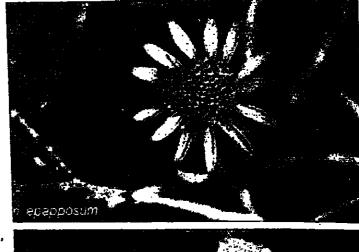
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Wildflowers







The desert comes alive with

months of January, February

transformed into amazingly

green meadows, particularly

spectacular carpet of yellow

camomile. Some 400 species

and March. In spring it is

in Wadi Al Batin which is

landscaped with a .

of plants and flowers, including Arfaj and Aswar

grow. Some flowers and

plants are used as herbal

remedies by bedouin. Urban

expansion, overgrazing and

pollution now threaten some

of the plants with extinction.

colourful plants in the

By Diana Abou Haidar Arab Times staff A VISITOR to Kuwait's desert in the spring would find a wide array a beautiful plants and flowers that come to life after the rain reason. Some of these plants are seasonal and short-lived, while others are perenhial because of their deep roots and their ability to survive on the little water in the soil and air moisture. Such plants also have the ability to become dormant in the summer when the weather is

too hot. This is what Sameera Omar, researcher at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, says in the introduction to her book

"Wild Plants of Kuwait." The 270-page book published in Arabic by Kisr and the Environment Protection Council aims at introducing the local flora to the public and providing researchers and concerned authorities with a reference on this

national resource.

Although a lot has been written about the subject, "Wild Plants of Kuwait" offers a unique and complete pictorial record of these plants and their locations, in addition to descriptions of Kuwait's weather, geograpy and topography and how they affect these plants. A 115 locations around the

country were surveyed. The sur-

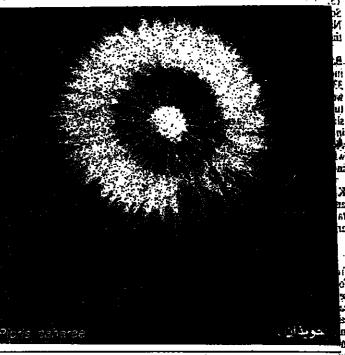
was divided into 6 areas each of which was given a colour corresponding to the colour of a chapter of the book that contains the pictures and the information on the plants. Such information includes the local name (in English and Arabic), the scientific name, and a description of the location. The book also includes an appendix that gives a brief description of the plants and their different uses such as medical, grazing, food, cosmetic or burning for fuel.

Among the most common plants is Arfaj. Its yellow flower that blossoms in April, has been chosen as the national flower. Arfaj dries out in the summer and bedouins burn it for fuel or store it for animal feed. Akheil is another common plant. It is 5 to 20 cms high and has little yellow flowers. Bedouin women use its red roots for cosmetic purposes. Kheil grows in January and dies in April.

Kozama is a rare plant. It has wide leaves and violet-colour flowers. It is good for grazing. Another rare plant is Kahsine which grows 20 to 40 cms high and is considered a good grazing plant for sheep and goats.

Omar says that some of the plants described in the book face the threat of extinction especially those in the southeastern and southwestern areas of the country because of overgrazing and increasing human activities.





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Photographs by Bader Al

# Building homes for all

By Lima Al Khalafawi Arab Times staff

A HOME for all. This in brief is the policy of the government of Kuwait. A curious kind of raffle takes place from time to time The unusual thing about this is that there are no losers. A thousand or more people are given a number, and each time, a number is pulled out of a drum, the candidate approaches a large board and selects a house which is to be his home.

What people want, people get. The government is granting under the pressure. The problem, it seems, is paucity of land. In view of this, planners may make some fundamental changes for overall improvement of the housing programme. These include developing run down settlements, particularly in the

Jahra area.
Minister of State for Housing,
Nasser Abdullah Al Roudhan,
has said that one solution is to redevelop run down localities, particularly in the Jahra suburb. In the pipeline are three housing projects in Jahra.

These, and other provisions, are included in the fourth fiveyear plan of the National Housing Authority (NHA). The plan is tailored to suit the growing needs and envisages urban growth in remote areas, including Watay, northeast Sawaber, Maqwa, north Andalus, Wafra, south Hadiya, Khairan, Failaka, Hadiya, Sulaibikhat, Umm Al Haiman, Al Na im and other

An average of 14,500 applications are expected for land, apartments and villas. Under the plan, 27,227 housing units would be built at a cost of KD60,000 per home. About KD1.62 billion has been allocated to complete the projects in the fourth five-year

The plan proposes speedy development of remote areas and new cities. It suggested more job opportunities in the new cities for families, who would be lured by work and a better lifestyle.

The houses will be designed with a provision for extending

the units in case the need arises.

It is still somewhat unclear whether Kuwait has a housing problem or not. On one hand there are thousands of candidates on the waiting list. On the other hand, there are nearly 20,000 vacant apartments.

What irks the government most is that those have obtained government housing are many

who don't value the house they got. In some cases, the attitude has resulted in financial loss for the government, when the owners demolish the house and rebuild it according to their taste.

The government has provided homes for more than 300,000

people since independence. More than two thirds of these received their homes after the formation of the NHA in 1974.

The government expenditure on housing reached KD1,004 billion with the budget steadily

The immediate problem is land NHA has used up all its land allocated for projects to be completed this year. About 12,415 housing units, 20 mosques, 35 schools, two commercial complexes and five principal suburb projects are to be implemented under the 1985/ 1990 third five years' plan.





وكروا فنادلاهم

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# Pearl diving: keeping alive a tradition

"Although the pearl trade was in decline in the 1930s, it was still an activity in which practically every family in Kuwait had a stake, and its traditional importance to the town was shown by the fact that the Sheikh himself sailed down to The pearl banks at the end of the season and gave a signal for the fleet to return to port. Then, every boat would hoist sail and make for Kappait with all speed, while the wives whose men had been absent r four months would harry down the seafront in their best clothes and welcome the boats home with drims and waving banners." This was recorded by Zahra Freeth and Victor Winston in their book "Ruwait — Prospect and

Pearling is no longer the backbone of the economy, but it still retains its charm and excitement to a handful of people who encourage the young to take up "hobby-diving" — not in traditional boats like the "Al Bateil," Al Sonbouk, Shoeie, Jalbout or Bagara of old - but on motor vessels equipped with the best equipment.

Before the First World War, Kawait had more than 700 boats, and between 10,000 and 15,000 crew and divers. frictimes people from Iraq and Nago came over to Kuwait to try

their luck at pearling.
By the 1930s, Kuwait like Bahrain, witnessed a slump in the industry and its fleet fell to only 330 boats. The emergence of oil wealth, and the popularity of cul-tuled pearls, resulted in a world slamp in the pearl market. This, in the pearl market. This, in the pearling. And, Anded a period of 800 years when pearling was the main industry in Kuwait.

Pearl diving dates back in Kiwait to 1125 AD (1713 hijra) and became increasingly important to the country's economy and its people's livelihood.

#### Season

The main pearling season was from May to September. For four months, divers remained at sea, searching for what they called "Tears of the Moon" beneath the waters. Pearl divers were mercenaries, though by no means rich. They drew no wages bul settled for a share of the deep, of which the ship's owner and shbreside merchants took by far the greatest portion.

In a bad year, and there would be many, there was no reward at





Kuwait is now reviving pearl diving, which was once the backbone of the economy. In the last three years, the heritage revival society has been holding "pearl diving festivals" to encourage the young Kuwaitis to participate in keeping alive a tradition.

Pearl diving in Kuwait dates back to 1125 AD and sustained the economy until the 1930s, when it declined. As late as the 1920, Kuwait earned more than a million pounds per year from pearling, Fathima Ahmed reports:



were naked, except for a loin

cloth and wore long leather thim-

bles over their fingers. They des-cended to the seabed on a heavy

stone, attached to a rope on the boat, their nostrils closed by a

wooden clip. They carried knives

to slice the oysters on the seabed,

which they had to do quickly and

expertly while their breath las-

ted. They carried small baskets

around their necks to store their

catch. The El Seib on the dhow

pulled them up after each dive.

When they could not stay down

any longer, divers sometimes

surfaced unaided. They worked

they left in debt to the ship's captain who supplied their provisions. It was a debt which bound them to serve with the same captain the next year in payment.

As any Gulf dweller knows, May to September is the hottest time of the year, and living on boats in cramped conditions and with poor provisions was an extremely harsh experience.

The size of the boat rangedfrom 30 to 60 feet and the larger ones carried more than two hundred men of whom only three were the Al Nukheda (captain). Al Jaedi (second-in-command)

El Geis were the divers and the El Seif (baulers) were people who helped divers.

Catch

The "tebab" was the entertainer-cum-cook on board the dhows. His cuisine wasn't much to write home about but with his songs, taken up by the divers, he left a legacy to cultural traditions. The songs are now a part of the country's folklore. In return for his voice and labour, the tebab received a token gift from

each catch. The crew received much of the command and the divers got three shares each. Sailors were given one share each.

The divers, for fear of fatal cramps, lived on minimum food for the entire season. Sickness. skin diseases and scurvy were common ailments. Divers knew the dangers of diving too deep or surfacing too rapidly.

It was an arduous job - and many, pearl-divers died young. Their health ruined by malnutrition and the rigorous life of the

They worked in an area about a hundred miles south of Kuwait,

periods of rest. Pearling was carried out according to ancient rituals. The Al Seib and Al Geis remained a distinct group; neither did the work of the work-

Oysters brought from the seabed were tossed on the decks and not touched until an appointed hour. It was a custom not to open oysters until late evening of early morning. They also carried a Holy Quran, hung from the awning struts of the stern of the boat. The captain read it to the crew in the evenings.

When the boat returned to shore to the beat of drums and the laughter of the women, dressed in finery, the pearlers paid a tax known as "Glata," levied according to the size of the catch.

The highest yield of pearls recorded in Kuwait was in 1912 — in what was a period of pearl boom. Kuwaitis earned more than a million pounds per year from pearling.

Home to the boats were

Kuwait's harbours — Neghat Al Shemlan, Al Nesif Ghanim, Ahmed Abul Muhsin Al Kharafi and Naser Al Bader.

Pearls are still sold on the market still retain a magic allure quite different from precious stones. Perhaps, it is in the difference between that which is hacked from the mundane earth and that taken from the mystery



The doctor-patient ratio allows for good medical care

# Healthy growth

THE development of health services has kept pace with the growth of Kuwait. "Health for all by the year 2000" is the goal of the Public Health Ministry. Health care has been given top priority, with the government allocating massive funds for constantly upgrading

medical facilities and services.

The health sector takes a big chunk of the state expenditure annually. Health care costs, which were around KD 100 million in 1974/75 reached KD 676.5 million by 1984/85. This constitutes about

6.5 per cent of the country's budget. According to 1986 statistics, there are 17 hospitals with a capacity of 5,440 beds, 62 clinics, 157 dental clinics, 22 maternity centres, 36 child care centres and 25 preventive health care centres.

The government has also made provision for specialist treatment for various ailments. One of the most prestigious, and the first of its kind in the Middle East, was the establishment of the Hamed Al Eissa Kidney and Organ Transplant Centre.

Organ transplant surgery began at the Sabah Hospital in 1979. Dr. George Abouna, a noted transplant surgeon, has been conducting the operations. Due to the giant strides made in medicine worldwide, the rate of success of kidney and liver transplant operations has risen to about 80 per cent.

So far, 504 kidney transplant operations have been done at the centre. About 240 patients, suffering kidney failure, are receiving dialysis tr<del>c</del>atment.

The government spends K D8000 per year on each dialysis patient, Abouna said. He added that the cost of a kidney transplant is

Aboung recently told Kung that some patients who were unable to wait for donors went to east Asian countries to "purchase organs, causing serious medical problems."

Kuwait is also one of the first countries to enact a law making donation of cadaver and live organs, thus giving a legal backing to a humanitarian cause.

A medical student, who conducted a survey in the early 1980s. found that people in Kuwait were ready to donate their organs. Therefore, the Kuwait Association for Organ Transplant was formed in 1984. The association registers the names of people wishing to donate their organs after death. The association holds awareness campaigns, distributes donor membership cards and talks about the issues related to organ transplantation.

The Hussain Makki Al Juma Cancer Centre, specialised for the treatment and care of cancer patients, is another service provided by the government. A subsidiary body, the Cancer Society, was formed

to provide not only the patients but the family with moral support.

Some of the other specialised centers are psychiatry, chest diseases, allergies, heriditary diseases, acupuncture and herbal medicine.

Nuclear medicine sections at various hospitals treat about 15,000 patients per year. Plans are afoot to expand this to other hospitals.

Due to concerted efforts, medical services were vastly improved since independence in 1961. The doctor-patient ratio, which was 1:1,200 in that year has now reduced to 1:644. The state spends an average of about KD100 per patient. The nurse-patient ratio, which was 1:713 in 1961 has reduced to 1:200.

The health care system has effectively reduced the infant mortality rate from 44.3 per 1,000 births in 1974 to 14.4 in 1987. The mortality rate dropped from 8 per cent per 1,00 in 1965 to 4 per cent per 1,000 in



Electricity costs are the lowest in the world. Above: National Day

#### Electricity

## Reliable supply

DESPITE a couple of hiccoughs last year, electricity supply has been constant over the years. The policy of the Ministry of Electricity and Water is to ensure a reliable supply of power to all homes and establishments in Kuwait.

The number of consumers rose from (2,500) in 1950 to 250,000 (1985). The per capita consumption averages 9,744 kwh per annum, and equals to the highest consumption rate in the world. This excessive consumption has been accompanied by a change in the pattern, with commercial and industrial consumption representing over 21 per cent of overall consumption.

Electricity charges are considered to be the lowest in the world with ch unit costing 2 fils for domestic use and one fils for industrial use. The cost of producing energy is 30 fils per unit. The charges are low because the government heavily subsidises the production of power. The low costs, some say, are sponsible for an overall 14 per cent increase in the annual rate of consumption. To counter this situation, MEW has launched an extensive public awareness campaign, asking consumers to rationalise consumption. This campaign has resulted in lowering the rate of increase in consumption to 6 per cent per year.

The electrical energy output is now about 7,084 MW. This was due to the commissioning of the giant Al Zour South Power Station, which has an initial capacity of 955 MW. Its capacity will reach 2,511 MW by the end of 1990. This increase coincides with a reduction in the production capacity of the 35-year-old Shuwaikh Power Station, which was commissioned in 1953 with a production capacity of 750 KW. With expansion and development, its capacity increased 340 times, reaching the current level of 5,741 MW.

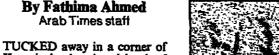
The transmission and distribution networks were also expanded.

Some 326 main stations, 3,930 ring-main sub-stations were set up. The total length of underground cables of varying voltages is 19,825 kms in addition to 3,867 kms of overhead lines.

There are six major power plants located in Shuwaikh, Shuaiba, Doha, Al Zour and Ahmadi. There are 100 main ring sub-stations with two transformers and another 150 with four transformers.

## Archaeology

## Failaka – a historical landmark



Kuwait is the tiny island of Failaka, once a bustling trade centre, and now a historical landmark of a bygone Greek and Dilmun era. The relics discovered in Failaka not only give vital clues to Kuwait's history but also throw light on lost civilisations.

In recent months, a French

archaeological team uncovered the remnants of what was once a church in the 5th century. The team also found many other relics which are expected to close a gap in Kuwait's history from 100 AD to 900 AD. French archaeologists say the 35m by 20m church proves the existance of a flourishing Christian community between the 5th and 9th

All this may have remained buried under the sands. Thanks to a team of archaeologists. the Greek and Dilmun remains were uncovered in 1957. That year, some archaeologists had discovered Dilmun finds in



Bahrain. They had evidence that Dilmun borders extended beyond Bahrain — or Tylos as it was then known. Encouraged, they began to search for the edges of the lost civilisation.

In 1957, a team of Danish archaeologists visited Failaka and found pieces of pottery and Bronze Age relics. They also found two sites of well-defined "tells," which they believed may have belonged to the Dilmun era. Promising clues. But were they right? They had to find out.

Backed by Kuwait's government, they began excavating the sites a year later. By 1961, they found startling answers to Kuwait's early history and the wider issues of man's glorious past that had been puzzling archaeologists for years. Failaka had proved to be full of historical treasures and the puzzle seemed finally solved about what happened to the Dilmun civilisation. which had been lost for 5,000 vears.

Excavations also unearthed more evidence of Kuwait's ancient history and the region's links with earlier civilisations such as Mesopotamia and the indus valley.

Failaka and Bahrain had been "in contemporary association" and the link was traced back to

"Dilmun in 2800 BC." Today, ferries run between mainind Kuwait and Failaka Island where tourists can see the relics of the past. The ruins of

Dilmun town lie, partly exposed, in a deep excavated pit and include stone houses, paved streets and a temple rebuilt three times in the 3rd millennium BC. One tall stone wall still shows the finger marks of men who plas-tered it about 4,500 years ago. The Dilmun civilisation belongs to the Bronze Age.

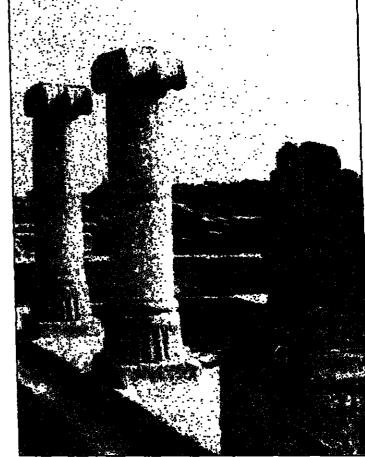
A shard's throw away is a square, a moated Greek temple 20 centuries younger than the Bronze Age's Dilmun town. It is the only ancient Greek settlement so far found in the Gulf. This combination of the Greek and Dilmun on the same sight make Failaka unique.

A community in the 3rd century BC was also suggested by the discovery of a brick-built workshop complete with kiln to make terracotta figures. It suggested Failaka's links with the Greek empire and the Seleucid period.

Digs close to the Greek temple produced a hoard of silver coins. One of them bore the likeness of the Syrian King Antiochus, who ruled the Selucid Empire from 223 BC to 187 BC after Alexan-

The imprint of Alexander was also found on some coins, but historians have established they were minted after Alexander's death in 323 BC.

Alexander never came to the island, then known as Ikaros, which archaeologists say was discovered by his envoy, Nikioris soon after Alexander's campaigns in 170 AD.



Greek Temple remains.

Thirty years later, the Selucids of Mesopotamia strengthened their power and Ikaros became a bustling trade centre, used as a stopover enroute to the Indus valley (now in Pakistan) and other eastern routes. Steatite seals found at Failaka linked Ikaros with Tylos (Bahrain).
Trade

Failaka was not only a trade centre but also known for its agriculture. French archaeolog-ists, excavating the site in 1984, established that the prized crop of the region was barley, grown in abundance on Failaka, due to plentiful supply of fresh water.

Fresh archaeologists said Failaka was the gateway controlling the northern trade route: it was also inhabited by people who set up temples dedicated to the Greek god Artemis and a goddess of fertility named Inzak

Akarum. There are four separate "tells" on Failaka — low mounds which flank a sandy sea shore. Large land masses, which once formed

mainland Failaka, are now buried beneath the sea. One mound covers the Dilmun town; another hid the Greek temple built 2000 years later, a complex frontier settlement containing two colonaded temples, a three oven bakery and a walk-in well.

Within the Dilmun town's rough and jumbled stone walls, 400 seals, small round stones with a flat surface carved into patterns or scenes (now displayed at the National Museum were found.

The discoveries indicate that the ancient inhabitants of Failaka had reached a high level of civilisation. Failaka was what Kuwait now is on the mainland - a strategic centre enroute to the Arabian hinterland.

Today, Failaka is a major tourist attraction. In 1983, a large tourist complex was built on 5,000 square metres comprising 472 self-contained luxury chalets. A self-contained motel and a large restaurant was also



Columns of the Temple of Soteira

home two medals more by finishing

second in two events — the Etienne

Stakes and Dunhill Cup. The

Etienne Stakes was won by Kuwaits'

Rakad Al Thaffeiri. He also finished

first in the Emirates Golf Club

Stakes. In the same event, young Nadir Ibrahim topped the Junior

Jamila did quite well on the local scene also by winning the Amir's Cup. Nadia finished second in the

same event. Lamya Al Issa scored a victory in the Dunhill Showjumping

On the athletics track, Kuwait did

not fare very weil. It won only one medal at the Asian Track and Field

Championship — a silver through Jasim Al Duwells in the 400 metre.

hurdles. Jasim later won a bronze in

Ghanim Gohar, however, cap-

tured a gold medal in the Arab meet

in the javelin throw. Also at the same

meeting, Mohammed Zankawi, Riyad Abdullah and Smeh Farhan

Kuwait's tennis players proved

that they were the best in the region when they won both the titles in the open and under-14 category at the GCC Tennis Championship after a

close competition with Bahrain. Kazmah Soccer Club added to

Kuwait's victories in 1987 by finish-

ing first in the GCC Soccer Clubs
Championship while Habib Ahmed
Saleh got a gold medal at the Work
Fencing Challenge for the bandicap

In 1989, Kuwait not only organ-

ised the Peace and Friendship

Games successfully it also hosted the

won bronze medals.

the Arab Athletics Championships

News Stakes.

KUWAIT celebrates its 29th National Day today secure in the knowledge that the sports movement here has kept pace with the other developments in the country over the last three decades.

Kuwait has certainly come a long way from the time when there were no facilities and the only form of exercise was to jog over vast tracts of

Twenty-nine years later Kuwait is a sportsman's paradise with stadiums and other facilities to vie with the best in the world. These are a part of a vast multifaced organisation which has become the spine of many national sports movements, Kuwait has certainly made rapid developments on the sports field over the last three decade

One reason is that the Kuwait government has classified sport as an essential element in the development of its young people. As a consequence it has spared no effort or funds to provide some of the most sophisticated facilities to be found

The 29th year of Kuwait's independence can certainly be counted among one of the most successful for the country in building its international reputation.

It was in this year that Kuwait staged the Peace and Friendship Games — the first ever Games for all the Islamic countries in the world. The task was momentous as Kuwait had only two months to stage the

#### Brainchild

The Games, which were the brainchild of His Highness the Amir, were brought to fruitation by the untiring efforts of one man — Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, Kuwait Football Association and the Olympic Council of Asia. Not only did Sheikh Fahd organise the event, he also succeeded in fighting off repeated attempts by some members of the international community

to scuttle the Games. The Games, however, were successful and proved to the world that Kuwait could organise events at every level of competition. But the sports movement in Kuwait did not gain success overnight, it was the result of nearly three decades of hard work by various sports personalities.

and organisations.

Although some sporting bodies emerged before independence, it was only after 1961 that the sporting movements gained the momentum which has today put Kuwait well and truly on the world map.

The key body, the Kuwait Olym-

pic Committee (KOC) was formed on Sept 29, 1957 with the football, basketball, volleyball, athletics and motorcycling associations born on the same day.

The first general assembly of the KOC was held on Jan 1, 1958 and the first board of directors was elected with Jassem Al Katami as the

The sports movement was suspended from 1958-61 and the KOC was re-formed on April 17, 1962, Issa Al Hamad was elected as the new

Kuwait's first direct contact with the Olympic Games came in Tokyo in 1964 when the KOC sent a delegation as observers. During the Games KOC became a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

A year later, a new board of direc-

tors emerged with Issa Al Hamad still at its head. Meanwhile, more and more sports bodies became affiliated to the KOC.

#### Invited

KOC's big moment came in 1968 when it was invited by the IOC to take part in the 19th Olympic Games in Mexico. Kuwait's team comprised two athletes who both took part in the marathon. They were Muraiheeb Ayed Mansour and Saud Ubeid Daifullah, both soldiers with the Kuwait Army.
In 1972 in Munich, Kuwait had a

bigger representation, taking part in athletics and swimming though it

failed to gain any medals.

A year before Munich, Kuwait gained admission to the Asian Games Federation and also hosted a meeting of the Arab Olympic Com-

In 1974, a new board of directors was elected, with Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed as president. He again holds the post and has tried hard to spread Kuwait's name and influence in sports world-wide.

The soccer movement was launched with the Kuwaiti Sports Federation in 1952. It was renamed the Kuwait Football Association in 1957 and became a member of Fifa m 1962. It joined the Asian Football Federation in 1964 and the Arab Football Federation in 1974.

After independence, a new board of directors was elected with Issa Al Hamad as the KFA president in Sep-tember 1961. The new board formed the first national team which played its first matches against the Swedish club Malmo on December 15 and 17.

In the same season the Kuwait Soccer League and the Kuwait Amir Cup Championships were organ-

In that first season, Al Arabi won both the trophies. Since then, Al Arabi, Al Qadsiya, Al Kuwait, Al Kazmah and Al Salmiya have led the League Cup winners, with Al Arabi, Al Kazmah, Al Qadsiya, Al Kuwait and Al Yarmouk sharing the Amir Cup triumphs.

Since the formation of the KFA, foreign sides have been visiting Kuwaii to play against club teams as well as the national side.

#### Stadlum

In the early stages KFA had six club members. The number increased to 11 in the 1964-65 season and from 1975 onwards it has grown

In 1970 the Gulf Cup was organised to develop the game throughout the region. Kuwait won this Cup four times in a row in 1970, '72, '74 and '76. It is held every second year.

Perhaps more than anything class these Gulf Cup victories for Kuwait drew the government's attention to the value of sports in general and football in particular.

As a result a big stadium for 25,000 people was built in 1974 to host the Gulf Cup tournament. It



HH the Amir has taken a personal interest in promoting sport.



# Sporting glory over the decades, and growth

was the country's first stadium and appropriately called Al Kuwait

Even more spacious stadiums followed with Al Árabi, Al Qadsiya and

Al Kazma Clubs. Such technical facilities as well as financial support enabled Kuwaiti clubs to entice world class coaches to

Among those to have left their mark on Kuwait's football are the Yugoslav Brosich, the Brazilians Zagallo and Carlos Alberto and his to train the Kuwait team was Edmond Majoski of Austria in 1958. The KFA has had its ups and downs especially administratively. It was suspended by KOC in 1985, but

directors. A new board was finally formed with Ahmad Muhanna as president. In April 1970 seven mempers, including Muhanna resigned. A month later a new board emerd under Abdulla Al Dakhil Al Rashid and the KOC lifted its susp-

it also suffered the same fate in 1969 for refusing to elect a new board of

It was on May 5, 1974 that a new board was elected under Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed. And it was with his appointment that Kuwait attained new heights. The team which had earlier dominated the Gulf scene was lacking quality players, but Sheikh Fahd set about putting things right and creating a side with dedication and discipline as well as skill. He infused new blood into the side and dropped veterans who had outlived their usefulness. He had decided a new era was necessary to take Kuwait from purely Gulf competitions up to genuinely international

Kuwait became the first Arab

And in 1982 Kuwait achieved the peek of its ambitions by qualifying for the 1982 World Cup finals in

Yet perhaps its greatest achievement was its victory in the Asian Soccer Championships in Kuwait in 1980. By winning the Asian crown it became the first Arab country ever to do so.

Sadly, a decline in standards has followed, Kuwait has failed to qualify for the 1990 World Cup and also lost its Asian crown in 1984. KFA is at the moment organising

the on-going Gulf Cup.
While soccer has largely dominated the local scene, athletics was the sport in which Kuwait first par-ticipated in the Olympics.

The Kuwait Amateur Athletic Federation was formed before 1961, but it joined the international scene after independence when it was accepted as a member of the International Amateur Athletics Federa-tion. It had to wait 20 years before

Kuwait has classified sports as an essential element in the development of its young people and the country has come a long way in the last 29 years. The sporting movements which gained momentum after independence have put Kuwait truly on the world map, Arab Times Sports editor Yawar Magsood reports.

being promoted to the grade 'A' category during the IAAF congress in

Rome in 1981.

The KAAF joined the Asian Amateur Athletic Federation in 1973 and took part in getting up the Arab Amateur Athletic Association

Essa Al Dashti, the then president

**Athletes** After fielding those first two athletes at Mexico in 1968, KAAF later sent athletes to the Munich, Montreal and Moscow Games.

Kuwait first took part in the Asian won a silver medal in the 400 metres

again won a medal, this time a bronze in the shot putt. In the New Delhi Games it took a silver, in the shot putt.

not been able to hit the heights in the Asian Games, they have performed credibly in the Asian Athletic Chamnships over the years.

Zankawi, Kuwait's shot putt champion, won a gold medal in Tokyo in 1979 and again in 1981, where he set an Asian record. Khaled Khalifa also did well in Tokyo in 1981 where he won the silver medal in the 800 metres, and was chosen to represent Asia in the World Cup Athletic Championships in 1979 and 1981. Zankawi also went

to the 1979 World Cup.

It was at these championships that Kuwaiti athletes put up their best showing since the KAAF was for-

Zankawi won one of the golds in the shot putt event and Naiim

came in judo, athletics, tackwondo.

Kuwait's soccer squad showed a

lot of promise under the new coach,

Saleh Zakaria in both the Gulf

Championship and the 1986 Asian Games, Zakaria, who was appointed

to train the national side after the

sacking of flamboyant Englishman

Malcolm Allison, took the team to

the great heights with excellent

which they participated.

ilts in both the tournaments in

The soccer squad captured the

Gulf crown, easily beating their

rivals in the one-week tournament. The squad was unlucky to come

Asian Games, where they were edged out on a penalty shoot-out in

Kuwait's participation in both

the semifinals by Saudi Arabia

with only a bronze from the

boxing and soccer.

who took the silver medal. Najim took his second medal in

of KAAF, was elected vice-president of the AAAA at the Tokyo congress in 1979. He was also named as representative of Asia in the IAAF 1981. During the 1981 IAAF Rome congress, he was made a member of the international organisation and was also awarded the "Veteran Pin" for his service to the sport at the 1982 Athens congress.

In the Bangkok Games in 1978, it

Though Kuwait's athletes have

After these successes, Kuwait received the honour of hosting the Fifth Asian Championships in November, 1984.

The successful staging of these championships showed that the KAAF had come of age, and also gave a chance to local athletes to show off their prowess to their home

med. They won two gold medals, one silver and two bronze.

Mutlaq spring a surprise in the 800 metre wher he took the gold in front of his team-mate Khalid Khalifa, eight bronze — was the highest ever. The silver medal was won by the equestrian squad in the team com-petitions, while the other medals

the 1,500 metres when he was placed third, and Najim Abdul Razaq com-pleted the tally with a bronze in the Kuwait's other "glory" sport is equestrianism, to which the credit goes to the Hunting and Equestrian Club, which though formed in 1964

was only formally inaugurated in 1973. Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed was its first president. The high spot of Kuwait's achievements came when its young riders dominated the last Asian

Games in New Delhi. As a result, the world began to take notice of Kuwait's gains in this field. Nadia Al Mutawa, Jamila Al Mutawa and Sheikha Barya Salem Al Sabah won the top three medals in the individual show jumping com-petition. With this victory Kuwait's domination of the sport began, not only in the Arab world but through-

out Asia.
The riders have consolidated their position in the Arab Showjumping Championships in Baghdad in 1984 and in Kuwait in 1985. On both occasions the Kuwait team, comprising of Nadia, Jamila, Sami Al Mudaf and Jamil Al Awadi swept

Another sport practised at the same club and gaining popularity is archery. The Archery Federation was formed only relatively, recently under Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed as its

president It became the 63rd member of the International Archery Federation (Fita) in 1983 and being a new sport, club records are made and broken regularly. As the number of archers has grown there are more than 16 archers of all ages and nationalities at present — their progress has reached regional levels.

Kuwait has done less well at other

sports on the international level, although there have been some successes in rallying, volleyball and handball.

These sports are rapidly improving in standard and again it may not be long before international levels

For expatriates, cricket is by far the most popular. On any holiday dozens of matches are played all

over the country. Cricket is by no means new to Kuwait. It was brought to the country by British employees of the Kuwait Oil Company in 1947 and by 1956 there were 14 teams playing in the Wimpey League. But it was only after independence that cricket became more widely popular especially among workers from the sub-continent.

This popularity was helped by visits by New Zealand Cofts team in 1964 by Joe Lietze's interestinal

1964, by Joe Lister's international side in 1971 and by Tom Graveney's International Eleven in 1969. Exhibition matches between Indian and Pakistani sides last year also increased the game's popularity.

There are nearly 50 tournar held every year but the sport is still to some extent disorganised in that there is no linkage of the various

Leagues.

What many feel is needed is a body to co-ordinate all tournaments and even choose a team to represent Kuwait. There are certainly enough players of first class standard to make up such a team to compete at international level.

Tennis, golf and karting also are

gaining in popularity. Kart drivers have done well in the Middle East but to prove themselves at the international level more public and professional interest is required.

1986 saw the resurgence of Kuwan's sportsmen on the international field.

Kuwait's teams participated successfully in a number of Asian and Gulf events. The results that they achieved clearly indicate that the decline has been arrested and a path paved towards regaining the glory that was synonymous with Kuwait's

name in Asia.

Kuwait's best performance of the year came at the Asian Games held in Seoul. Although the contingent came home without any gold medals, the total number of medals won at the Asiad - one silver and

ful at the start of the year as the International Football Federation (Fifa) had suspended the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) in January.
The Kuwait federation had been

Fifa requirements were met in time and the suspension lifted only a week before the Gulf event held in Bahrain. The basketball team also brought glory to the country. In the Gulf Championship held in Kuwait, the home squad clinched the title for the

third time to keep permanent posses-

embroiled in a controversy, but the

#### sion of the trophy.

Kuwait's volleyball squad also made its mark at the Arab Championships in Jordan, bringing home the bronze medal. To prepare the team for this event, Kuwait had earlier on arranged a tournament in which Japan, Italy and Egypt also participated. The home side finished

gained another nonous in some Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed was re-elected chairman of the Olympic Coun-

whelming was the support for him that the other candidates had no choice but to withdraw in his fayour. Kuwait did a marvellous job at

Kuwait's riders carried on where

Best Arab Rider at the Dubai Horse Show. She won the Dubai Television Stakes and was second in the Port Rashid Authority Stakes Jamila's sister, Nadia, brought

ast in this event but gained a lot of experience which came in useful at

the Arab Championships.
Besides these victories Kuwait ined another honour in 1986 when

cil of Asia.

Sheikh Fahd, who is also a member of the International Olympic Committee, was given four more years at the helm of the Asian sports affairs in appreciation of his efforts over the previous tenure. So over-

organising the 13th Asian Boxing Championship in 1987. The president of the International Boxing Federation, Anwar Choudhry, said that Kuwait had proved that it was ready to host even bigger events. Kuwait also won a gold medal and a silver at the event.

#### Captured

they left in 1986 and enhanced their reputation on the international

Jamila Al Mutawa was named the

Arab Brotherhood Tennis Championship and the Kuwait Inter-national Rally. Kuwaitis did quite well in a number of other fields also. Lieutenant Rakal Al Daphire came back from

Dubai after being acclaimed the Bes Arab Rider at the Dubai Horse Kuwait's basketball team won the Saddam Basketball Championship in Baghdad but failed to do as well in the Asian Athletics Championships

where it got only one medal.

Kuwait's disabled sporstmen have not been forgotten. At all of the international tournaments they have participated in they have always come back with medals. Last year was their best with some line performances in the Disabled Games in London and Tokyo

In view of the rapid rise in sporting standards since Kuwait's independence, it cannot be long before it produces international sportsmen right across the broad. If indeed, when comparing Kuwait's size its achievements are already remarkable

On the occasion of Independence Day, and on the evidence of the last 29 years, it can be predicted with confidence that the next quarter century will see Kuwait climbing higher and higher up the League tables.





The Directors and Staff of **Kuwait Maritime and Mercantile Co. KSC** and their principals



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\*Gray Mckenzie Reprographics

\*Caleb Brett

offer their congratulations on the occasion of Kuwait's 29th National Day

to His Highness

Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah

and

The Amir of Kuwait

His Highness

Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah The Crown Prince and Prime Minister

and the people of Kuwait.





Kuwait soccer team: after winning the Asian Championship

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Market turns mixed

# Kuwaiti indices dip

THE Alshall index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday, Feb 21, 1990 an average of 38.76 points with a decrease of 0.11 point — 0.28 per cent — from last week's average of Wednesday, Feb 14, 1990. The Alshall index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 67.49 points with an increase of 0.17 points — 0.25 per cent — for the same period, according to Al Shall weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 9.90 million shares at a daily average of 1.98 million shares with a decrease of 31 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 2.86 million

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 6.40 million shares at a daily average of 1.28 million shares with an increase of 103 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.632 million shares. The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD3.66 million at a daily average of KD0.73 million, a decrease of 16 per cent from last week's daily average of KD 0.87 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.212 million at a daily average of KD0.042 million, an increase of 45 per cent from last week's daily average of KD

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Muzaffar to

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THE board of directors of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait decided to

promote Abdulmuhsin Taqi

Muzaffar (above) to the position

of assistant general manager, human resources and administra-

Muzaffar joined Al Ahli Bank

of Kuwait in April 1988 after a

long period of over 30 years of service in various jobs in the

public and private sectors.

Muzaffar holds B.Sc. degree in

economics with distinction from

Cairo University 1970. He is a

member of the board of directors

of the Kuwaiti Economic Society

New banknote

WARSAW, Poland, Feb 24,

(AP): The Polish National Bank will issue a 100,000 zloty note on Monday, another step to accommodate the soaring inflation that has accompanied economic

reform, the official news agency

is the second largest in circula-

tion, after the recently introduced 200,000 zloty note.

in December but had to be

redesigned after Poland's name

was changed from the Polish

People's Republic to the

last year, following the lifting of controls that had kept prices

unrealistically low through huge

government budget subsidies to

unprofitable state-run enterpr-

The banknote, worth \$ 10 1-2.

The note was being produced

PAP reported.

to be issued

for more than 10 years.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 53 per cent of total trading against 40 per cent last week. The Gulf Bank had the lead at 39 per cent; followed by The National Bank of Kuwait at 30 per cent and Kuwait Finance at 14 per cent. The investment sector came second at 27 per cent in which Coast Investment and Development Company had the lead at 75 per cent followed by Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 29 per cent followed by Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 29 per cent and International Financial Advisers Company at 3 per cent. The services sector came third at 11 per cent in which Kuwait Commercial Market Complex Company had the lead at 51 per cent followed by Mobile Telephone Seystem Company at 33 per cent and the Public Warehousing Company at 16 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Arabian General Investment Company (Shuaa) had the lead at 21 per cent followed by Rahrain pany (Shuaa) had the lead at 81 per cent, followed by Bahrain International Bank at 9 per cent and Bahrain Middle East Bank at

5 per cent.

The market gave signs of mixed performance which was inclined to the weak side. Kuwaiti indices dropped as related to last week's while non-Kuwaiti indices gave signs of increase. This fall in trading activity & prices does not support the claim that the past week was the start of a new active cycle. However, it is clear now that last week's performance was only a short period of activity which usually occurs after several consecutive weeks of low activity.

Companies listed in the Kuwaiti share's market continue to declare dividend distributions. Three Kuwaiti companies have declared distributions last week which brings up the percentage of companies that declared dividends in this market to 52.3 per cent

of total listed compatities.

Kuwait Investment Projects Company declared cash dividend while both The Commercial Bank and Burgan Bank have declared cash and stock dividend. The total number of companies that declared cash dividend only reached 56.5 per cent of total companies that declared dividend distributions for 1989 while total companies that declared dividend distributions for 1989 while total companies that declared both stock and cash reached 43.5 per cent. We believe that this percentage is very high considering the present situation in the Stock Exchange Market.

The financial structures of most Kuwaiti companies cannot

absorb an increase in future financial burden which will be created as a result of the new stocks that are being distributed as dividends, and the Stock Exchange Market cannot itself absorb this increase

in shares supply.

Laspite of an this, many companies continue to declare stock dividend distributions and some of these companies are urged to do so by the government. Official laws do not favour this kind of dividend distributions however, it has been followed in two consecutive years which lead us to believe that it is a rule rather than being considered a violation of public policies. We urge officials to reconsider this policy of stock dividend distributions

term problems more complicated. Kuwait shareholding companies index

Mant site enoughly	Wed.	Wed.	Change
	21/02/90		points
Banking Sector	,		F =
The National Bk	121,52	121.52	'
The Gulf Bk	29.70	29.70	_
The Comm. Bk	23.71	23.71	_
Al Ahli Bk	29.27	30.28	-1.01
Bk of Kt & ME	30.97	31.44	-0.47
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	28.71	28.71	_
Burgan Bk	26.01		0.21
Kt Finance House	77:45		0.82
Sector Index	47.43	47.54	· -0.11
inv. Sector			
Kuwait Inv. Co.	9.18		· <del>-</del>
Kt. Int. Inv. Co.	8.59		1 20
IFA	24.45		
Comm. Facilities	148.50		
National Inv.	57.84		
Kt. Inv. Proj.	92.13		-1.18
Coast Inv. & Dev.	91.76		
Sector Index	32.22	32.04	0.18
ins. Sector	25 00	35.88	
Kt. Ins. Co. Gulf Ins. Co.	35.88 23.08		
Al Ahleia Ins.	23.06 50.84		
Warba Ins. Co.	50.84 50.69		· <del>-</del>
Sector Index	35.74	35.74	_
Real Est. Sec.	33./4	33.17	_
Kt. Real Est.	14.02	14.02	
Utd. Realty	5:29		
Nat. Real Est.	39.42		
Pearl of Kt.	63.49		
Sector Index	15,81		
Ind. Sector	1440	. (3.00	-0.01
Kt. Cmt. Co.	11.45		; <u> </u>
Ref. Ind.	84.5	5 84.5	_
Gulf Cables	104.0		
Kt. Pharm.	60.4		
Sector index	28.8		
Services Sector			
Kt. Cmptr. Co.	151.2	0 151.2	0 —
Kt. Cinema Co.	7.6	1 7.6	1
Pub. Whousg Co.	58.5	9 58. <i>5</i> 1	9 —
Kt. Comm. M.Co.	36.8		
M. Tele. Syst.	347.6		
Sector Index	58.4		
Food Sector			
L. Trad. & Transp.	29.2	9 29.2	9 —
Utd Fisheries	11.0		
Kt. Utd Poultry	110.0		
Kt. Food Co.	73.5	6 74.7	
Sector Index	39.4	9 39.6	
Overall Index	38.7	76 38.6	
Non-Kuwaiti shareho			
	We		
		0 14/02/	
First G. Bk.	236.8	84 236:8	
Dob Intl Db	91 (	03 91 (	03
Bah. M.E. Bk.	93.	97 93.0	0.95
A. Gen. Inv. (Shua)	~45:	<del>74 45.</del>	<i>A</i>
Umm Al Q. Cmt.	17.	62 17.0	62 —
G. Med. Projs.	13.	13 13.	
Total Index	67.		
-Rese period 31/12/1983			
_ All the sempenies listed in	, the Ctest	- Evahaina	a madas nas.

-All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-

**Despite Fed Intervention** 

Kuwaiti companies are included.

## Dollar moves up strongly on yen

NEW YORK, Feb 24, (UPI): The dollar moved up significantly on the Japanese yen in New York trading yesterday as Tokyo stock market volatility and a Bank of Japan stay on interest rate hikes sent capital towards other currencies.

Traders said most activity was in cross trading, in which foreign currencies are exchange directly for each other without involving the dollar. There were heavy sales of yen for German marks and Swiss

"People are selling the yen against everything," said Todd Gerber, a currency vice president for

Societe Generale in New York. Near the end of the New York trading session the dollar was changing hands at 1.6780 German marks, up from 1.6738 Thursday. The US currency

was quoted at 147 Japanese yen, ahead from 146.60. But the dollar also benefited, either from direct yen-dollar transactions or as a side effect of yen selling for other currencies. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York intervened twice to defend the yen, traders said.

People are determined to buy the dollar and sell the yen," said chief dealer Sally Young of the Bank Fur Gemeinwirtschaft. One factor was the decline of the Tokyo Stock Exchange. "It's been taking bit hits

There was also the international perception that Japanese market fragility has ruled out a Bank of Japan discount rate hike any time soon, sending global capital in search of higher yields in other

The dollar also firmed against the Deutsche mark \$1.7155.

on a Washington Post report saying Bonn, now mapping out monetary union with East Germany, envisioned a one-to-one ostmark-Deutsche mark conversion. Economists say the move, though politically expedient, is economically ill-advised.

The Post report had its greatest impact on Asian and European markets, but it continued to support the dollar in US trading.

Roger Shields, chief international economist for

Chemical Banking Corp., said German monetary conversion on a one-to-one basis would preserve the savings of East Germans but ironically prove pernicious for the economy. The step could mean even more massive West German infusions, he said.

"All these kinds of things support the dollar," he said. "The concern is that the political imperative is

overruling the economic issues." In New York the British pound ticked down to \$1.7098 from \$1.7100.

Other dollar rates: 1.4720 Swiss francs, off from .4772, 5.6810 French francs, up from 5.6710, and 1,240 Italian lire, up from 1,238. In Europe the dollar closed mostly higher, ending

the session in Frankfurt at 1.6755 German marks against 1.6730 Thursday. But the dollar declined in Zurich to 1.4745 Swiss francs against 1.4760.

The dollar also rose in Paris, Brussels and Milan, to 5.6795 French francs against 5.6660, 34.92 Belgian francs compared with 34.87 and 1,240.10 Italian lire against 1,237.90 at the previous day's

In London the pound moved up to \$1.7065 from

# Industry playing

playing a vital role in the country's development despite problems associated with lower oil prices and the after-effects of the Gulf war, according to a study released here.

A report by the country's Industrial Bank said that despite all the challenges that confronted the Kuwaiti industrial sector in the 1980s, the National Industries Company (NIC) had "lived up to its responsibilities." It revealed that Kuwaiti fac-

tories were operating at 50 per cent of their total capacity. NIC chairman Mufaraij Ibra-him Al Mufarij disclosed that the firm's profits had increased from \$28.4 million in 1988 to 36.3

million last year. He said the company's operations had been boosted by the establishment of separate administrations for production and marketing, which had hel-ped the firm adjust to market

Al Mufarij highlighted the need for creating job opportunities for the country's youth in industrial fields, stressing that dependency on foreign imports would pose a threat to the Kuwaiti economy.

He hailed the setting up of the Kuwait Public Authority for

Industries saying that it was a positive step which would enhance easier movement within the private sector.

The NIC, which was established in 1960, has set up industrial complexes in Abdalla Port and

Sulaibya. It was attempted to boost its standing by collaborating with the Kuwaiti Finance House and the country's lending and savings bank to provide landowners with building materials.

The Abdalla Complex comprises a lime factory and lime brick plant while at Sulaibya, the NIC runs plants producing batteries detergents, tiles and cement.

## Export, import prices up

WASHINGTON, Feb 24, (UPI): Prices for US exports and imports rose substantially during January, led by increases in fuels and food, a sign of stronger inflationary pressures for the economy, the government reported yesterday.

Last month, the import price index rose 1.4 per cent, while the export price index increased 1.1 per cent, the Labour Department's Bureau of Labour Statis-

According to the BLS, the January rise in import prices, which followed much smaller increases in the four previous months, was primarily attributable to sharply higher prices for petroleum, which jumped 13.5 per cent. In contrast, the BLS noted,

despite higher prices for impor-ted fruits and vegetables, the index of prices for nonpetroleum imports rose just 0.2 per cent in January. Prices for imported food, feeds

and beverages jumped 3.3 per cent in January.
Imported industrial supplies

and materials prices increased 3.8 per cent in January, an advance that bodes ill for US manufacturing costs. Capital goods prices rose 0.6 per cent, while motor vehicles prices fell



Volvo's chief executive Pehr Gylenhammer (left) and Renualt chairman Raymon Levy shake hands on a multi-billion dollar deal to link their car, bus and truck operations at a news conference in Amsterdam on Friday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Cross shareholdings to face competition

## Multi-billion-dollar link-up

AMSTERDAM, Feb 24, (Reuter): Automakers Volvo of Sweden and state-run Renault of France announced a multi-billion-dollar cross-shareholding deal in their car, trucks and bus divisions yesterday aimed at raising

efficiency but maintaining separate identities.

Volvo AB chief executive Pehr Gyllenhammer told a joint news conference with Renault chairman Raymond Levy in Amsterdam that Volvo would pay 23 billion Swedish crowns (\$3.68 billion) for shares in Renault and receive 11 billion crowns (\$1.76 billion) for Volvo shares from the French firm from the French firm.

"It will give us the largest combination in the truck/bus sector and we will have a size and the breadth to compete in the very competitive (auto) business," Gyllenhammer

The two companies will acquire 45 per cent in each other's truck and bus businesses. Volvo will acquire a 20 per cent stake in a new parent

company Renault would be setting up, with an option for another five per cent. Renault is to buy 10 per cent of the share capital in parent Volvo and 25 per cent in its car unit.

"This is an alliance — we thought there was a need for a more refined form of co-operation that is not a merger or a takeover," Gyllenhammer said.

The carmakers will co-operate on development, buying of parts and on production. Each firm keeps its own models, name and respective headquarters in France and Sweden, the chairmen said. But they did not rule out joint production of a car.

"If we don't design anything jointly, produce anything jointly, then we won't be more efficient," Gyllenbammer

The deal could belo Renault out of difficulties with the European Commission over state aid.

Renault will be transformed into a normal company and will take a natural place in the corporate world,"
Gyllenhammer said referring to Renault's semi-state-

Renault's deal with Volvo is subject to formal approval by the French government, Levy said, "But I wouldn't be here if I didn't think it is agreeable to the French governorate," he said.

The deal holds other advantages.

Motor industry analysts consider the truck operations of the two firms to be ideal candidates for merger, with Volvo—the world's second biggest truckmaker—strong volvo—the world's second biggest truckmaker—strong in northern Europe and Renault powerful in the south. In cars, Renault last year had 10.3 per cent of the West European car market, while Volvo had just two per cent, according to the publication Automotive Industry Data.

A combined market share of about 12 per cent would enable Renault/Volvo to leapfrog Ford Motor Co and General Motors Corp into fourth place in Western Europe behind Volkswagen AG, Fiat SPA and Peugeot SA.

Renault and Volvo have linked up before, in the 1970s.

when Renault bought 10 per cent of the Swedish firm and subsequently raised the stake to 15 per cent. Renault's financial woes led it to sell the stake in 1985.

but the firms continued to co-operate. In April they began talks on a tie-up that would permit them to make economies of scale. Then, in December, Renault officials said they were

thinking only of technical co-operation leading in time to a Volvo said in October it was actively seeking to boost

production levels and financing needed to survive in the French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, in a speech on

Friday, rejected any suggestion that the Renault-Volvo deal would lead to privatisation of Renault.

"As far as France is concerned, nothing has changed: there will be no Renault shares offered to the French public, and no privatisation," he said.

He said the link-up was "an industrial answer to an industrial problem" but did not mean the privatisation of

#### Battle over Enimont goes on MILAN, Feb 24, (Reuter): Industrialist Raul Gardini

has won a stronger financial position in Italian chemicals joint venture Enimont, but the outcome of a battle between the deal's public and private partners remains unclear, share analysts say. "Somebody has come out on top, but the problems

are not over," said one milan-based analyst. Enimont, which ranks among the top 10 chemicals companies in the world, was formed a year ago with the hope of rationalising Italy's chemicals industry and

creating an international force. But the public and private sides have spent most of

the past year feuding.

Three allies of Gardini confirmed on Thursday that they had bought a combined stake of around 10 per cent in Enimont Spa, effectively giving the chairman of Montedison Spa majority control of the firm.

Montedison and state energy group Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI) each have 40 per cent of Enimont. "Not all of the problems are out of the way, I don't think the government is going to take this lightly," said analyst Mary-Christine Keith at London's Swiss Bank On Thursday, US investment group Prudential-

Bache Securities Inc, French businessman Jean-Marc Vernes, chairman of sugar producer Beghin-Say, and Italian financier Gianni Varasi disclosed they had built up minority holdings in Enimont.

Varasi once owned a large Montedison stake and subsequently sold it to Gardini when he took over the

Italian firm in 1986. Enimont's shares shot up in December and brokers

suspected then that investors were stake-building in the company on behalf of Gardini, who heads the Ferruzzi Agribusiness Empire. I think buying shares in the market (by Gardini's

allies) was more a gesture to force the situation to a resolution rather than to say, I've got control," the Milan-based analyst said.

Japan's inflation jumped

#### American industrial production increased in December to \$108.6 billion from \$118.5 billion GROWTH in the US economy Industrial output in December rose

slowed down sharply towards the end of last year. This slowdown might probably be a temporary pause in continued expansion, with less than 50 per cent risk of recession. Unemployment held steady at 5.3 per cent in December 1989. This was the 9th consecutive monthly decline in factory jobs. GNP grew by an annual rate of only 0.5 per cent in the 4th quarter of 1989, confirming that a slowdown is underway, and by 2.9 per cent for all 1989. Consumer spending and business investment declined by 0.1 per cent and 3.0 per cent respectively in the 4th quarter of

Republic of Poland, PAP said In addition, the crown was restored on the national emblem as 1989 compared with an increase of 3.6 percent and 5.2 respectively in the the purging of postwar communist symbols continued under the 3rd quarter for the same year, accornew Solidarity-led government. ding to Industrial Bank of Kuwait's Poland has been struggling Interest and Exchange Rate monitor. with triple digit inflation since

Strength for the economy came only from housing and government spending, which increased by 2.6 per cent and 1.3 per cent respectively in the 4th quarter, neither of which can be expected to last at a time of falling real estate prices and a federal deficit

Industrial production increased by 0.2 per cent in December 1989. Durable goods orders rose 2.5 per cent in December 1989 after a revised 4.9 per cent increase in November of the same year. This increase was generated in the transportation industry, where higher aircraft and shipbuilding orders offset a decline in motor vehicles and parts order. For all of 1989 durable orders rose 5.9 per cent compared with 10.9 per cent rise in

Producer prices index (PPI) increased by 0.6 per cent in December 1989 due to a 1.9 per cent and 1.5 per cent increase in energy and gasoline prices respectively. CPI rose 0.4 per cent in December with an annual rate of 4.6 per cent for all

While merchandise trade deficit in December shrunk to \$7.17 billion from a deficit of \$10.29 billion in November 1989, trade deficit in the 4th quarter of 1989 widened to \$61.8 billion from \$57.1 billion in the 3rd quarter. For all 1989, the deficit slide

in 1988. It was the lowest short-fall since 1984, when it reached \$106.7

Japan Economic indicators released for Japan suggest that economic activity has picked up somewhat at the end of 1989 and the economy is still in good shape and settling on an expansionary path. An unusual aspect of this expansion has been the growth of the female labour force, chiefly in part-time jobs. This has supported supply-side economic expansion by keeping the right market for labour from pushing up wages. Though industrial production declined 0.1 per cent in December, production accelerated to 0.7 per cent for the fourth quarter as a whole, up from 0.2 per cent in the third quarter. Shipments advanced 0.6 per cent in December, following a 1.8 per cent increase in November, with shipments of capital goods par-

ticularly notable. Inflation rate soared in 1989. Consumer price (CPI) jumped 2.3 per cent in 1989 after rising a meager 0.7 per cent in 1988. This rise was the biggest since 1984. Producer prices (PPI) rose 0.1 per cent in December. annual producer price inflation was 3.9 per cent compared with 3.8 per cent in 1988. As a result of the drop in

automobile exports to the US and the J-curve effect of the cheaper yen, together with rising crude oil prices, Japan's trade surphis in 1989 fell to its lowest level in four years. The surplus dropped to \$64.4 billion from \$77.6 billion in 1988. Japan's current account narrowed by 28.4 per cent to reach \$6.98 billion in 1989 from \$79.63 billion in 1988. Invisible trade deficit ballooned to \$15.9 billion in 1989 from \$11.26 billion in 1988. Exports totalled \$269,63 billion in 1989 against \$259.77 billion in 1988, while imports totalled \$192.50 billion against \$164.75 billion in

W. Germany The W. German economy achieved a high rate of growth in 1989. GNP increased by 4.0 per cent

while exports grew by 10 per cent.

by 2.4 per cent against 0.3 per cent increase in November and for all 1989 it increased by 5.4 per cent. West German M3 Money Supply grew at an annualised rate of 4.8 per

cent in December 1989 after a 4.4 per cent rise in November, which averaged 4.7 per cent in the last quar-ter of 1989. Monetary growth had overshot the Central Bank's target in the previous three years. For 1990, the Bundesbank has set an M3 growth target of 4-6 per cent con-sumer price index (CPI) rose by 0.3 per cent in December, and by 3.00 per cent for all 1989. PPI also rose by 0.4 per cent in December compared with a 0.4 per cent fall in November, and by 3.4 percent for all 1989 against 3.0 per cent lower than in December 1988, while for all 1989 it was 6.0 higher than in 1988.

West Germany's exports surged in 1989 as demand intensified for its quality engineered goods. Trade surplus jumped 5.0 per cent, to DM 134.7 billion in 1989, and current account surplus rose by 16.2 per cent

United Kingdom

The CBI Quarterly Industrial Trend Survey confirmed the picture of a slowing domestic economic which is likely to weaken further. GDP growth rate is expected to reach 1.4 per cent annual rate during Q4 of 1989 compared with 1.9 per cent in Q3 in 1989. Sharp decelerations in consumption and investment will more than offset a positive contribution to GDP from improving net trade volumes

The Retail Price Index rose 0.3 per cent in December, giving a year-on-year rise of 7.7 per cent. This came as a pleasant surprise for UK financial markets, which were expecting the annual rate to edge up to 7.9 per cent. or even 8 per cent. Concern that inflation will be fuelled by rising pay demands has escalated. Wholesale price index increased by 0.2 in December, a year-on-year rise of 5.0 per cent compared with 4.9 per cent

Trade and current account figures cheered in late 1989. The December

1989 trade deficit was only £1.22 billion after £1.50 billion in November and the current account gap narrowed to £1.12 billion from 1.40 billion. However, the whole of 1989 the current account deficit totalled a record £20.31 billion compared with £14.67 billion in 1988. Trade deficit for 1989 was a record £22.9 billion after £20.83 billion in 1988. **US dollar** 

The dollar started the new year with a bit of new strength on traders' beliefs that its decline late last year was overdone. However, surprise intervention by the Bundesbank and a smaller interest rate advantage served to keep the dollar below DM1.70 for most of the month.

Weak US economic indicators fur ther undermined the currency. Job growth failed to meet forecast an fourth quarter GNP growth was mere 0.4 per cent with an actus decline in final sales. An abruy decline in the securities markets als served to heighten uncertainty.

(Continued on Page 18)

## **Envoy to** present award to

ON Tuesday February 27, the Ambassador of the Netherlands, Joseph Veling, will present the Holland Agricultural Export Award to Mohammed I. Al Fraih of Burgan Agri-Food

Al Fraih

The Agricultural Export Award is awarded by the Netherlands minister of agriculture to businessmen who, through their outstanding efforts, have made a long-term, significant contribution to the export and marketing of Dutch agricultural and horticultural products. The award, first instituted in 1986, has until now been presented twice within the Gulf area, both times to businessmen in Saudi Arabia.

The long-term, outstanding relations Mohammed Al Fraih has with Holland and Dutch companies fully justify his choice as recipient of the award. For over fifteen years he has done business with Dutch firms, importing and marketing a wide variety of products ranging from poultry-farms and greenhouses to hatching eggs, one-day chicks and flower seeds.

He promoted the use of Dutch technology and expertise to assist in the development of agriculture in Kuwait. The first and to this day largest poultry farm, as well as the big glasshouse complexes were set-up by Dutch companies, who also con-tributed new irrigation methods and their agricultural technology in general to the development of

Mohammed Al Fraih has thereby made himself known as a man with expert knowledge of the agricultural sector, who is, moreover, extremely pleasant to do business with.

By establishing a durable business-relationship with the Netherlands, Al Fraih has contributed towards the cementing of the bilateral relations between the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

#### **TFAI to** take part in **Dubai fair**

R.P. SINGH, first secretary (commerce) of the Indian ced the Trade Fair Authority of India, a government of India undertaking with more than 130 prominent public sector undertakings, leading industrial houses, export promotion Councils and their constituent firms, will participate in the Dubai International Spring Fair from February 27 to March 10, 1990. The products proposed to be displayed are: Telecommunication systems,

technologies on fragrances. flavours and medicines from plants, construction equipment, appliances electricai refrigerators, electronics, moreds, bicycles, auto parts, hand and cutting tools, plastic and PVC prodeuts including spectacle frames and lenses, tyre and tube repairing materials. chemicals, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, industrial garments, diesel engines, home appliances and consumer durables, surgical apparatus, builders hardware, sanitary, pottery and glasswares, leather products, garments and fabrics, woollen knitwear and knitted hosiery, processed foods,

large number of representatives will visit and make trade enquiries on-the-spot business negotiations. For more details, please contact; Indian Embassy, Kuwait (telephone: 2530600), Indian Embassy, Abu Dhabi (telephone: 337700) and Consul General of India, Dubai (Telephone 220201).

## GBP set to grow further

More new projects to be implemented

# Cautious optimism reigns

IN 1989 the Kuwaiti economy was able to recover from the slow down it had experienced in 1988. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated to have increased by 4 to 5 percent in 1989, after a decline of 4.9 per cent the year before.

Higher oil out put and firm crude oil prices contributed to the recovery in oil sector output, which is estimated to have registered a sharp growth in 1989. Non-oil output accounting for nearly 80 per cent of GDP in recent years, is estimated to have grown only margin-

In terms of public expenditure, the total amount spent by the government remained relatively stable at KD3.4 billion in 1989.

In addition, estimates of Kuwait's foreign trade performance show the Current Account of the Balance of Payments for 1989 to be in the region of a KD2 billion surplus. This compares favourably with the surplus of KD1.3 billion recorded in 1988.

Labour force

As for 1990, the outlook appears to be more promising, based on the mood of cautious optimism that followed the Joint Economic Commission's recent proposals to re-activate the economy.

Although oil revenue is likely to show some improvement, particularly as a large number of new projects are to be implemented in the construction sector. In the longer-term, the authorities are also concerned to bring about struc-tural changes of a far reaching nature to the economy. As a major aim of the new Five-Year Development Plan, will be to adjust population and labour market imbalances. This relates especially to the private sector where greater efforts will be made to increase the participation and efficiency of Kuwaitis in the · labour force.

Increased economic diversification is also a priority, the hope being that Kuwait will offer improved services in the fields of finance, trade, transportation and storage during the coming

GDP growth

After recording an impressive growth in 1987, the Gross Domestic Product registered a decline in 1988. At current prices, GDP for 1988 totalled KD5,571 million against KD5.856 million in 1987, indicating a negative growth of 4.9 per cent. In 1987, GDP grew by 16.5 per cent after a decline of 8.6 per cent in 1985 and 13.8 per cent in

In 1988, oil sector GDP totalled KD2,002 million against KD2,232 million in the previous year, representing a decline of 10.3 per cent. In 1987 oil sector GDP grew 32.9 per cent from the KD1,679.1 million level attained the year before. Given both the higher output and prices registered in 1989, it is reasonable to expect a double digit growth for oil sector GDP in 1989.

At the same time, non-oil GDP declined from KD3,624 million in 1987 to KD3,570 million in 1988, reflecting a negative growth of 1.5 per cent.

The sectors that registered some

growth in 1988 were construction (4 per cent increase), real estate (4.5 per cent increase) transport, storage and communications (2.2 per cent increase) and restaurants and hotels (5.4 per cent). All other sectors recorded declines.

Oil output quota for '90

Local banks financing of Kuwait's imports increased by 16.5 per cent between January and October 1989 compared to an increase of 11.2 per cent in the same period in 1988. These factors tend to suggest that non-oil GPD will register modest growth in 1989.

- The latest Opec ministerial meeting has set for Kuwait's crude oil production quota of 1.5 mbd for the first half of 1990. This new quota represents a 30.5 per cent increase on the quota allotted for Kuwait for the second half of 1989, but is lower than the estimated average output of 1.6 mbd in 1989. Indications are that Kuwait will restrict its crude oil production during 1990 to the new

production ceiling set by Opec. The accumulation of inventories outside the OECD and stronger consumption world-wide helped oil prices remain relatively stable to firm in recent years. But given the expected slow down of the industrial countries and the increases in non-oil Opec production, oil prices may well soften in 1990. Still, if Opec members adhere to their production ceiling of 22 mbd during 1990, oil prices could be kept at a steady \$16-18 per barrel. In the event Kuwait's oil revenue will be lower in 1990 than in 1989. Crude and refined exports will be

Although the thrust of fiscal policy will remain unchanged from the previous year, a modest shift towards expansion can be expected. Public debt

marginally lower.

instruments will provide the government with greater flexibility whilst pursuing fiscal policy.

Construction sector

— The non-oil sector is expected to improve in 1990. The outlook for the construction sector is particularly optimistic with a number of infra-structural projects already having been begun and several more expected to be implemented in the near term.

The expected increase in construction activity will in turn have welcome spill-over effects on the trading and real

The implementation of a wide range of recommendations made by the Joint Economic Commission aimed at re-vitalising the domestic economy will have a much desired impact on the

They include the introduction of a free trade zone, providing protection to local industries, increasing the private sector's role in the implementation of government housing projects, and speeding up both the establishment of mutual funds and the speeding up both the establishment of mutual funds and the merger of specific financial institutions. The hope is that these measures will be implemented in the course of: 1990, as proposed.

- The decision to bring about a speedier implementation of the debt settlement programme should a more favourable environment for economic

Development plan Overall, 1990 looks set to be the start.

of a new phase of development for the Kuwaiti economy as a whole. The implementation of a wide range of revitalising measures, as recommended by the Joint Economic Commission, will provide a much needed boost to economic growth. In particular, sectors not sufficiently affected by public expenditure policy so far should expect to enjoy renewed growth in the years

Over the medium-term, the recently announced Five-Year Development Plan — with its emphasis on developing local human resources through improved training and skill development and activation of the role of private sector in development efforts should set the pace for further development of the Kuwaiti economy.

#### Vall Street water:

Relationship between Japanese, US markets murky

# Market shrugs off interest rates worry

NEW YORK, Feb 24, (AP): Events this week on Wall Street once again demonstrated the link between the Japanese and US stock markets - or did they?

Twice this past week the key index on the Tokyo Stock Exchange plunged. Each time, the drop echoed in New York. But the severity of the decline on Wall Street didn't come close to the fall in Tokyo.

On Wednesday, when the Nik kei index fell 3.15 per cent for its third-worst decline ever, stocks in New York mimicked the slide at the opening bell and the Dow Jones industrial average plummeted 30 points. But the market soon recovered, and by the close, the

Dow was down a modest 13.29. On Friday, the Nikkei fell 2.61 per cent for its fifth-worst drop in history. Again, the New York market opened lower - but the Dow was down only about 11 points. The market seesawed

gasping for air.

MOSCOW. Feb 24. (Reuter): The Soviet co-operative movement, devised by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev

to breathe new life into the country's everyday economy, is

anything from pasta to healthcare, the co-operatives say they are being stiffled by heavy taxes, rising interest rates

and bureaucracy.
"I can't understand how we manage to stay in business," said Boris Uryanov, chairman of Lasagne, a popular

Uryanov said he has had to raise prices at his restaurant to pay special taxes imposed by Moscow authorities on co-

operatives.

Meals in co-operative restaurants are already well beyond the pockets of ordinary Soviet consumers. At Lasagne, a typical meal costs about 25 roubles (\$15), one

tenth of an average monthly salary.
"Gorbachev speaks a lot about co-operatives but he does nothing to help us," Uryanov said.

The Soviet leader's decision to allow workers to form

their own co-operative businesses was seen as his boldest

attempt to restructure his country's ailing economy.

So far the move has paid off. In 1989, about 77,000 co-

operatives across the Soviet Union produced 40 billion roubles (\$67 billion) worth of much-needed consumer goods and services, compared with just 350 million roubles

Italian co-operative restaurant in Moscow.

Set up in 1987 to provide clamouring consumers with

before the Dow finished down The behaviour of the two

markets cast doubt on what widely had been assumed to be the inextricable link between the US and Japanese exchanges. That relationship was demon-

strated powerfully last Oct 13, when the Dow plunged 190 points but the Tokyo stock market's strength in the following sessions helped restore investor confidence on Wali Street.

the Tokyo market would plunge and drag down New York even further, particularly if Japanese investors were forced to sell their US stocks to raise cash for obligations at home. Many American securities holders worried about that prospect again this past week.

At the time, many had feared

Walter Murphy, a senior market specialist with Merrill Lyrich and Co. Inc., said the New York and Tokyo markets react

Co-operatives face hard times

Bank lending on the rise

(\$585 million) worth in 1987

for their future.

to domestic issues as much as to events abroad. You're looking at two mark-

ets that are acting under their own reasons for being," he said. For example, he said, when the yen is down in relation to the dollar, it's bad news for the Tokyo market but good news in New York because a weaker yen helps improve US trade competitiveness.

However, he did not dispute that there was a link among the

world markets.
"If you look at markets over time, there is and has been a good global relationship. Bull markets in one part of the world are going to be bull markets in the other part of the world," he said. But headded, "to say there is a

day-to-day correlation is not only inaccurate but probably dangerous."

Ralph E. Blair, a partner in the trading department of Mont-gomery Securities Inc. in San

But burdened with sharp rises in bank lending and tax rates, and forced to pay higher prices for their raw materials than state firms, many of the new enterprises fear

The National Union of Co-operatives predicts total

output of its members will plunge 25 per cent this year, the

A group representing Moscow co-operatives expects half the capital's enterprising to face serious threat of

closure, according to Literaturnava Gazeta, an influential

If these forecasts prove true, it would mean a dramatic

setback in the co-operative movement, which, according to weekly newspaper Moscow News, now accounts for about six per cent of all Soviet production.

Since 1985, when the movement first began to take shape, controversy has been growing over the role cooperatives should play in the Soviet economy.

Initially the enterprises — ranging from cafes and medical clinics to beauty salons and aerobics centres — were welcomed as a way of loosening the state's tight grip on production and increasing the meagre range of goods on offer to consumers.

But their popularity soon waned, B. 1388, they had been

discredited by exorbitant prices and by widespread accusa-tions of racketeering and black market dealings.

ernment daily Izvestia reported on Sunday.

is a concern about what goes on over there. But considering all the bad (economic) news, the (US) market is acting pretty

Blair said one factor that madeit easier for the US markets to take the Japanese plunge in stride this week was that the decline was fairly orderly as far as marketdrops go.

In addition, analysts have been saying for months that the Tokyo market — the world's largest and richest - was overpriced and ripe for a "correction." They said its share prices were way out of line with cor-

Some experts say the Tokyo market operates in a world of its own. European stocks historically have moved in tandem with New York than with Tokyo. That also may account for a lessening of the impact of a drop in

for Kuwait

THE commercial section of the

Royal Netherlands Embassy has

announced a trade delegation

from Netherlands will visit

Kuwait during March 11-13,

The mission is organised by the Netherlands Council for

Trade Promotion (NCH) and

sponsored by the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs.

The 17-member delegation

consists of manufacturers and

suppliers of a wide range of

The delegation will stay in the Kuwait Meridien Hotel, tele-

Appointments with trade

delegation can be arranged

through the Commercial Section

of the Royal Netherlands

Embassy, telephone 5312652 --Adel Azizieh or Frank Mollen.

products.

phone 2455550.

# Trade team

Loan agreements

World Bank President Barber Conable signs loan agreements for Poland worth \$360 million on Thursday watched by Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki (rear centre). (Reuter wirephoto)

Austerity measures bite

## Poland spins into recession

WARSAW. Feb 23. (Reuter): The good news for Poles is that there is enough food in the shops, free market mechanisms are starting to operate for the first time since World motorists are taking cars off the road because they cannot WARSAW, Feb 23, (Reuter): The good news for Poles is that there is enough food in the shops, free market mechanisms are starting to operate for the first time since World War Two and hyper-inflation may already be beaten.

The bad news, weeks after the Solidarity-led government launched its radical economic programme, is that Poles have suddenly got a lot poorer and can't afford to have such

Poland, on the frontline of East bloc economic reform, i spinning into recession as it struggles to recover from 45 years of communism. It could be a slump like nothing East Europe has seen since the 1930s.

Europe has seen since the 1750s.

Sales and production are falling rapidly under the impact of anti-inflationary measures imposed on January

Plants and small workshops are closing. Unem-

afford to run them But on the plus side, officials say hyper-inflation started

deflating rapidly three weeks after the government slashed subsidies to balance the budget, quadrupled energy rates and began holding down wages and squeezing credit.

The measures caused a burst of "corrective inflation."

Consumer prices jumped 78 per cent in January and the year-on-year index leapt to 1,090 per cent.

But the price curve flattened quickly. Deputy Finance Minister Marek Dabrowski said that although food prices

jumped by more than 80 per cent early in January, they were already dropping 1.2 to 2.4 per cent weekly from January 22 to February 15.

## American industrial production increased in December

on offer to consumers.

(Continued from Page 17)

Although it regained some strength on the Soviet unrest and persistent rumours of Gurbachev resignation as leader of the Communist Party. Yet, there was a prevasive lack of direction in market activity. The markets were also concerned about a perceived dispute within the Federal Reserve on the appropriate timing of lowering interest rates.
All in all, there does not seem to be

any strong reason to justify the dollar weakness. The dollar has probably reached its lower limits for the year, so long as the economy does not soften drastically.

D. Mark Following a preliminary hesita-tion, the DM has continued its strong performance in January as capital flooded into W. Germany, on the grounds that it stands to gain most from the opening up of Eastern

The Bundesbank's tight monetary policy has also buoyed the DM. The three-month Euro-DM interest rates have risen by two percentage points since March 1989, while the Eurodollar rates have fallen by that amount as the Federal Reserve has eased policy. As a result, real dollar interest rates are lower than DM real rates for the first time since 1976.

The yen continued its weakness in January, overshadowed by the upcoming elections and news of new financial scandals. Huge intervention of the BOJ during January, sometimes disguised through other banks, failed to bloster the currency. BOJ officiais fear that the yen's fragility will fuel domestic inflation and disrupt the trend of declining trade surpluses.

Sterling

Sterling improved unexpectedly during January. Despite economic indicators showing continued weak growth and high inflation it rose from \$1.61 to \$1.68 by the end of the month. It even rose against the powerful DM from DM2.77 to DM2.83 and against the yea from Y234.4 to Y242.5.

The currency's strength is attributed to the general characteristies of high yielding currencies. During times characterised by lack of definite direction in exchange rates, traders tend to be attracted to curren-

cies with high interest rates.

Deterioration in inflation expectations not only in the US but also in Japan has been partly responsible for the setback in the major markets. Some investors included that the Fed's reluctance to ease policy further in January means that the Fed has ended easing during the current cycle and the next move in US interest rates will be up and not

down.
In January, the Fed clearly chose to let its lunds rate fluctuate around 8.25 per cent. The US commercial banks cut the prime lending rate one-half percentage point to 10 per cent. The long-awaited move should quickly result in lower borrowing costs for consumer and for small and medium sized businesses.

The prime rate was as high as 11.5 per cent last June, but has fallen since then, mainly because the rates that banks pay on certificates of deposit have declined. For example, rates on short-term Eurodollars, or US currency held in foreign accounts. have declined to between 8-1/4 and 8-2 from as high as 10 per cent in May

Recent developments in US sug-

gest that the Fed is unlikely to ease interest rates soon. The fourth quarter GNP report shows an economy that needs help. Despite the sluggish economy, inflation remain uncomfortably high, and officials must now confront a milder case of stagflation. Rising interest rates abroad further complicate the process of policy making. With refunding approaching and many investors looking away from the United States, the Fed should be concerned about the size of capital flows from abroad. Policy should be steady over the near term, with the fund rate at \$8-1,4 per cent, but the next move will still be toward an easier stance. The risk remains that business conditions are weaker. not stronger, than expected.

The timing of the next move will depend on events abroad and how soon the US bond market stabilises, but a move to an 8 per cent rate seems unlikely until after the refunding.

With corporate profits in extremely good shape in Japan and capacity utilisation at a high level, business investment plans are being revised upward across a wide range of industries according to the BOJ Governor. Moreover, favourable labour market and income conditions have resulted in strong personal consumption, which is likely to con-

With production remaining at a high levels, demand/supply condi-tions in the labour market remain tight, and the problem of scarce workers will become even more accurate. This confirms the BOI expectations concerning further demand supply pressure ahead. Another discount rate increase is expected, most likely in the first quar-

There has been little easing of the pressures on short-term interest rates, and the Bank of England con-tinues to maintain tight conditions in the money market. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has recently maintained a cautious line on interest rates. The scope of tightening fiscal policy in the budget and hence making indirect tax increases would tend to raise inflation and a rise in direct

Raising tax allowances by less than inflation is likely, although that will not be sufficient to produce a market tightening of fiscal policy. In that light, 15 per cent is expected to be maintained up.

Moreover, there is mounting

tax rates would be politically disas-

evidence that the excess demand conditions in the UK are improving in discoss in the UK are improving in response to 15 per cent base rates. Moreover, the current account is improving, helped by last year's 12 per cent devaluation of sterling. Furner cent devaluation of sterling. thermore, it would appear that the peak rate of inflation in the current economic cycle has been reached,

Big rise seen in IMF resources

## Brady meets Bonn officials

KRONBERG, West Germany, Feb 23, (Reuter): US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, startinga week-long European tour in West Germany on Friday, said the United States was happy about current developments in

He did not specify whether he was talking about monetary union or political unification between East and West Ger-

"All Americans are happy about the developments in Germany." Brady told Reuters after four hours of talks with West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel in the Castle of Kron-

berg, near Frankfurt. East and West Germany are headed for almost inevitable unification after East Germany opened its borders last year and Brady said their planned monetary union was manageable. Waigel said after the talks that -questions about financing for the world lending agency, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), now appeared to have been

Waigel said a substantial increase in IMF resources was now possible and would probably be formally adopted at an IMF meeting in Washington in

"I believe there is agreement ... that substantial increases in the quotas will come. The preconditions have now been provided in the US Waigel said.

The United States, the IMF's biggest donor, has been reluctant : to boost the fund's resources although IMF managing director Michel Camdessus has called for these to be doubled.

12.35 The World Today via

5.00 Opening announce-ment and Holy Quran 5.10 The New Mickey Mouse Club, Awaken-

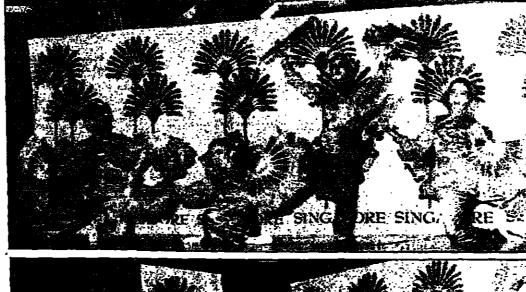
ing and how to arrange your bedroom. Romeo and Juliet-te....The richest man in

Satellite 12.50 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2









#### The Singapore Experience

By Diana Abou Haidar Arab Times staff

Guests of the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board and the Singapore Airlines enjoyed a real taste of this Asian Pacific Island at the SAS

The Singapore Experience" which was attended by 200 people,

featured genuine Singapore cuisine by chefs flown in specially for the event, and traditional dances that depicted the people's hospitality, multi-racial culture and myths.

In a welcome speech, Othman Wok, board member of the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board, said that Singapore has much to offer its West Asia friends and that its special attributes are well recognised. "For example, last year Singapore hotels clinched top honours in a poll conducted among 1,500 business travellers from 52 countries by the London-based Business Travellers magazine... Another survey, in April 1989, revealed that Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, in Malaysia, are the east expensive of 10 major Asia-Pacific cities for tourists."

Wok added that the country offers value-for-money shopping, a year-round calender of festivals, international sporting events and a clean green and safe enviroment.

#### **TELEVISION PROGRAMME**

9.00 Opening and Holy

12.15 Informative Programme about Kuwait National Varieties

1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)

Kuwait: special infor-mative film about the Kuwait's National Day

varieties with the Television Band for Popular Arts 12.30 News summary

the world... 6.00 A Children Movie.

'Harry & The Hander-sons' While the Handersons spending the holiday in the countryside they meet the "Big Foot" which looks like a gorilla and they were obliged to take it back with

8.00 News in English

involved with a drugs trafficker as he is in need for money...and Jack has to help him get rid of such involvement....

Days" The last days of Richard Nixon during Watergate scandal where the President has to decide either to resign or to face a trial...

12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

#### WHATSON

ARTS

**Handicrafts** 

FIFTY-SEVEN Kuwaiti artisans display handicrafts at the Kuwait Handicrafts Exhibition that was opened at the Regency Palace Hotel on Feb 24 by Sheikh Salem Ai Sabah, Interior Minsiter. A wide range of handicrafts, ranging from paintings to jewellery, will be displayed. Opening hours 8:30 % amto I pm and 4 to 8:30 pm. All are welcome.

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Hobby Centre FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354. Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tues-

day 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

SOCIAL

Milad mahfil

A Milad mahfil has been organised by the Bandhan Natya Chakra on Feb. 28, at. 6.30 pm at the Bangladesh Embassy (Khaldya), to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Language Movement.

The Ambassador of Bangladesh K.M. Shehabuddin guest, All Bangladeshis are cordially invited.

Children's variety show RANGDHANU, a chil-

dren's variety show which includes a play, will be staged on March 1, Thursday at the Theatre Hall of Kuwait University Law Faculty, Shuwaikh campus, at 6.30 pm. For cards contact 4840759, 4312730, 4312280, 4733106 or



Edwin Dass' Sur Sangeet Music Group

न्हें।E well-known Sitar Nawaz Ustad Walton Dass gave his rendition in Kuwait on 9/2/90 at the Al Salam Hote! and the attendance was very large, due to his charming music, which is loved and treasured by the people.

February 9 kept the audience, which included the diplomats of the

Indian embassy, spell bound until midnight listening to the magic fingers of Ustad Walton Dass strumming the melodious Sitar and every musical note striking the audiences' heart. He was accompanied on tabla by the famous tablist Ustad Munir Khan of Kuwait. Ustad Walton Dass was continuously applauded by the audience who were in a mood to hear more and more magic strumming from his sitar.

Maestro siturist was welcomed upon his arrival by his fans at the airport and was escorted to the Al Salam Hotel where the rush of the crowd who had come to see him could not be controlled. It is due to Ustad Walton Dass's training and grooming of young talented lads who have now become professional musicians in the music world. His son Edwin Dass is in Kuwait, where he is also appreciated and admired for his musical charm by the music lovers.

It is our sincere wish to have Ustad Walton Dass in Kuwait again to hear his entertaining and captivating music which echoes throughout the auditorium, emanating from his "golden sitar" Best of luck - best of wishes to Ustad Walton Dass and long live the

music world.

Sur Sangeet Music Group Salmiyah

#### ROBBIE 2002 a remote con-

trol robot over 1.2 metre tall will be performing in the main lobby of the Kuwait Inter-national Hotel on 23rd, 24th and 25th February at 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm. It can greet, talk, rotate, bow backwards and forwards, tap dance and perform many other tricks to entertain children of all ages. It has made over 200 television appearances the most successful being the British TV Quiz show 3.2.1 having over 17 million viewers and was seen across the world. Tickets on sale now. K.D1.000 per person. Tele: 2530000 ext 8040.

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held in May 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (Ist, 2nd & 3rd). Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance

from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaitees. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990. Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further

engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join. Canadian Women's League AN invitation is extended to all Canadian women to attend this months meeting which will be held on Saturday March 3 from 4 to 6 pm in Qurtoba. For

more information contact

2563025 or 2563867.

details. All Indian associations

Goan Weltare Society MARCH 2 — Friday Goan Welfare Society meeting will be held at Ramada Salam Hotel on 2nd March at 10 am followed by a reception at 12 noon for the Goan football team who won the exhibition match recently in Kuwait Goa vs Kerala.

Sultan Gallery INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8

ACT'S production of the Skin of Our Teeth at UAS, Salwa, 8 pm, Feb 27, 28 and March 1. Directed by George Plautz. For reservations please call 5725071, 5731782.

Ladies International League of Kuwait JOIN us at our next meeting

on Monday, March 5, at the Holiday Inn. Doors open at 3:30, programme at 4:30. Hope to see you ladies there. Door charge. Steps Ballet School

WE announce that we are

now the official co-ordinators

for the Royal Academy of Dancing, London. We invite any teachers of ballet here in Kuwait to contact us if they would like to enter any of their students for the Royal Academy of Dance Examinations which will be held this coming May 1990. Entries must be in by March 31. Examinations will be held sometime in May for our own students, and outside students of other teachers are welcome to enter their children also. Please contact us on 5386481 from 9 to 12 noon only. In the afternoons, 5655216/8 ext 55, from 4 to 7pm. (the examination session will be conducted by a visiting examiner from the Royal Academy of Dance, London, as is usual for Steps Bailet School RAD candidates.) .

**Kuwait Weish Society** ST. DAVID's Day buffet dinner Thursday, 1st March 1990 at Messilah Beach Hotel. For more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.

#### Spring Bazaar for Khalifa

YOU are invited to an exquisite display of handicrafts and gift items on Thursday March 1, 1990 at Kuwait International Hotel's Old Failaka Room from 10 am to 7pm. Of the products on display are Latin American rugs, silver, souvenirs, brassware, decoupage, ceramics and other works of art. All donations for the Khalifa School will go to the handicapped.

Martyrs' Day: Shatadal Cul-

tural Group FEB 27: Shatadal Cultural Group will be holding their Martyrs' Day at the Messilah Beach Hotel's Al Amai Hall at 6:30 pm on February 27. The programme includes a seminar, poems recitation and songs.

Rainbow and Philippine Youth **Band performance** 

ON the occasion of Kuwait's National Day, the Rainbow Band and the Philippine Youth Band will be performing at 4:00 to 7:00 pm on February 22 to February 25 at the Entertainment City-Doha.

Ladies international League LIL newcomers: A coffee morning will be held on Feb 26 at the Sheraton Hotel from 10 am to 12 noon. New comers to LIL and Kuwait will be most welcome. For further information please call Ann on 5316905.

Craft Centre MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to

relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon. Carnival Fiests '90 - cancelled YMCA Incredible S.C. Regret to inform that their above function is cancelled due

to unavoidable circumstances

and the inconvenience caused is deeply regretted. Organisers. Bits 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.



Sarfaraz Sulehry.

#### **New members of PMC chosen**

Rana Abdul Sattar.

Rana Abdul Sattar was, on Feb 12, elected president of the Pakistan Muslim Centre. The new members of the central committee were also chosen.

Sattar was sworn in as president. Addressing the members of his organisation, he assured them of his best services to achieve their goals and work for the welfare of the Pakistani community. He also urged members to provide guidelines and co-operate with the newly elected members.

The other members of the central committee are: Niaz Abid (chief organiser): Najim lqbal, Imdad Hussain Sarhaddi, Mohammad Younas (vice presidents); Sarharaz Sulehry (secretary general); Khalid M.M. Yousaf (press secretary); Natis Ahmad Sheikh (finance secretary) and Mohammad Aslam (joint-secretary).

#### KTV<sub>1</sub>

Ouran | 9.15 National Varieties

9.35 Habiba Wa Hammarat Al Qayla: Local play, starring Maryam Al Ghadban, Moham-med Al Saree, Mun-qeth Al Saree, Tareq Al Ali, and Abdul Aziz

1.00 News summary

1.30 Lahaleebo: Arabic feature film, starring Nacema Akef, Sulaiman Najeeb, Shukri Sarhan and Hassan

Facq 3.30 Eidak Ya Watan: local programme which includes (1) Manarat Al Khaleej: local programme, prepared and Presented by Nervana Edrees, (2) Saham Al Fada: Cartoon Serial (3) Wa Qala Hakeem: Historical serial (4) Deewaniyat Shuara Al Nabat: local pro-

gramme 9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 National Varieties 10.30 Wa Tushreqo Al 11.00 Local late night

8.30 Documentary Infor-9.00 The Midnight Caller. Jack Killian's friend is

10.00 Coach, "I am In Love" "Kelly." the daughter of "Hyden" introduces her father to a

stage player.. 10.30 Bestseller. "Final

12.00 News in Brief





#### UAS hold 6th annual carnival

CHILDREN with faces painted like clowns, stars, flowers or Ratman were among the over 1,500 Universal American School (UAS) students and parents who came to the UAS campus to enjoy the 6th annual Carnival. This year's festivities included 31 staff-run booths with games, food, and activities for fun-seekers of all ages. Participants won prizes for games such as pin the tail on the camel or riding the unrideable horse. For those more artistically inclined — or with a message to share—the T-shirt painting booth was a popular attraction.

#### Ail entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be con-

sidered for publication.

Phoned-In entries will not be

accepted.

#### **CINEMA TODAY** Granada Al Andulus

Arabic film Al Salmiyah Hall Booked Al Hamra Bair n Drive-in Arabic film Al Firdons

Agnee Path

Fahaheel Open Arabic film Al Jahra

Pyari Behna

Fajr Zohr 4.59 am Ast Maghreb

Yateem

Sulaibikhat

Cyclone

Jleeb

12.01 pm 3.17

Accident Swagatham

Ahmadi Drive-in

Arabic film

PRAYERS

5.44

#### BLONDIE - By Debrat Outrook Staff Drake 1/1/ READY TO TURN THE LIGHT OFF ? THERE! END I'M IN IN OF CHAPTER THE MIDDLE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS YOU'D THINK OUR TIMING WOULD BE MINUTE, HONEY, THIS READY PART AGAIN

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE SECON Browne STATE STAT







AGATHA CRUMM -- By BIT Hoest

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BEETLE BAILEY By Mort Walker





THE WIZARD OF ID By BrantParker & Johnny Had







**ANDY CAPP** 



**B.C.** — By Johnny Hart



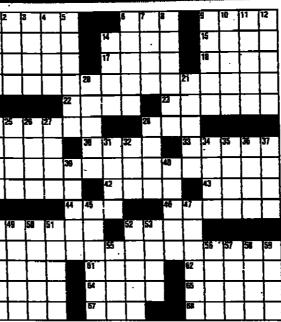
**HE-MAN** — By G. Forton & J. Shull







TODAY'S CROSSWORD



DOWN

3 Receptions

4 "- and the

6 Dinah from

7 Race track

figure

8 Row at

a set

pace

antelope

compound

Great's

birthplace

competitors

20 East or West

21 Mozart's was

follower

music

25 Revelry cry

of old

White

House

26 Former

24 Liability

Tennessee

King of Slam\* 5 Hale, the 1776

27 Superlative

28 It can be

32 Brat

endings

31 Deprivation

chopped liver

34 Abba of Israel

35 Token taker

36 Broadway's

Tommy

37 Palmist

39 Banquet

40 Ticked off

45 Mail sites

47 Explodes

mark 50 Manitoba

Indians

51 Beginning

53 Helen's

mother

55 Part of TV

57 Prudish one

58 Town S of

Oviedo,

59 Donkey, in

Dortmund

Spain

RISELEATEN

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SAPPED REDDY PLEA GEST ESTE

STYLE CAVE PIS BARBERSHO

56 Unusual

Commandments

52 Ten

48 Disconcert

49 Punctuation

**ACROSS** 1 Lucifer 1 Waist cincher 6 Aves. 2 Ancient chest

9 Syrup sources 13 Hippodrome 14 Bartender's measure 15 Downwind

16 Meager 17 Decant 18 Indolent 19 is a kind and generous person

22 Chip in chips 28 Cute creatures 9 Russian from Down 10 Organic Under 24 Fortify

28 Precedes capita 11 Alexander the or se 29 Namesakes o a Stowe 12 Ranks heroine 30 Famous nom de 14 Bicker

33 Students hurdles 38 Complete surprise 41 Badger 42 Graf ---

plume

43 First-rate

44 Jenny

46 Drying frame 48 Confront 52 Insult 54 Having inherited exalted status

60 City on the Skunk 61 Peruse 62 Removes rind 63 Pintail duck 64 Fitzgerald or Raines 65 Group of three 66 Biblicai verb 67 Prepare the

AMASSED TOSHAME table 68 Author of "Love Story'

Both vulnerable. South deals. WEST

> **♣ AKJ96543♣ 2** SOUTH ★ KQ765 ♥ A K 75 ♦ A 7 The bidding: West South 5 🛊 5 🕏 1 🏚

We are indebted for this hand to

**GOREN BRIDGE** 

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF THE MIND OF THE EXPERT

♠ AJ 10 9 2 Ç J 3 2 ♦ K J 10 **♣** Q 8 EAST **83** ♥ Q 10 9 8 6 4 C Void ♦ Q 9 6 3 2 ♦ 854

NORTH

North East Pass Pass **Pass** Opening lead: ?

Bridge Today (six issues per year, \$21. Available from Bridge Today, 18 Village View Bluff, Ballston Lake, N.Y. 12019). It was played during a charity tournament in Montreal.

Sitting West was Bob Richman, formerly of Cleveland and now one of the top players in Australia. Never shy in the bidding, he made a

full-blooded five-club preempt over South's one-spade opening bid. When the auction got back to him it was at six spades and that became the final contract.

Now the mind of the expert took over. Richman was sure that, given South's confident slam bid, tworounds of clubs would "never" go through. It seemed the best chance to defeat six spades lay in scoring one club trick and a heart ruff. But to manage that East would have to have an entry. Since it was surely not a fast entry, what then?

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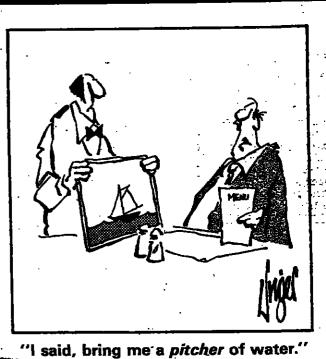
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Courses Morathly Superior Section Morates May 53

in-

Richman had seen this situation many times in newspaper columns and books. He would underlead his ace-king of clubs! To suggest the heart return, he carefully selected the nine of clubs as his opening lead. Declarer, Martin Caley of Mon-

treal, carefully played dummy's queen to the first trick and was only mildly surprised when it held the trick. He drew trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy, ran their jack of diamonds, crossed to the aed of diamonds and reentered duming with a trump to take a club discard on the king of diamonds. Declarer claimed his slam, conceding only a heart trick. Easy.



#### YOUR STARS



You should spend a little more time tidying up. Something you have been learning will now begin to show results. Do not leave your partner in any doubt about your affections,. Be discreet.



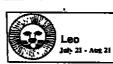
of confidence but do beware of going to the opposite extreme. Do not resort to guesswork and avoid jump-ing to conclusions. Do not be slow showing your gratitude. Be dependa-ble.



Nothing seems to be going quite the way you would have liked. Never mind, if you try hard you will be able to make the best of it. Accept an invitation but do not stay too long or drink too much. Be toofful. drink too much. Be tactful.

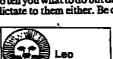


You will be able to see things more clearly. You will find a new and bet-ter way of doing something you have to do every day. Do not allow others to tell you what to do but do not try to dictate to them either. Be confident.



You will not be in the best of moods and should avoid an encounter with someone of whom you are not fond. There is no good reason for pes-simism. Be hopeful.

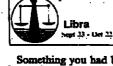




Something that has been puzzling



You will be tempted to eat too many sweet things: refrain. Make sure your partner is left in no doubt about your love. Do your best to avoid additional complications. Be



Something you had been looking forward to will not be all that you had expected. Still you should be grateful rather for what than disappointed with what is not. A new idea will show itself to be useful. Be loyal.

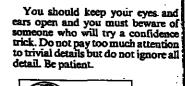
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Others will not always agree with you, nor should you always expect them to. Your lucky numbers are 14 and 45. Something you had thought would happen will but it will not be as bad as you had feared it might be. Show a little more goodwill. Be fair.



Try to take it easy today and do not think about work. You have no reason to become discouraged and should have the courage of your convictions, Do not be too quick to tell others what you think of them. Be resolute.



Aquarius ---- 3 - Febr 1 You should take extra care when on the road whether walking or on wheels. There is less time than you think, so do not waste any of it. Make sure you do not say one thing and then do something quite inconsistent with what you have said.

Capricom

Dec 21 - Jan 19

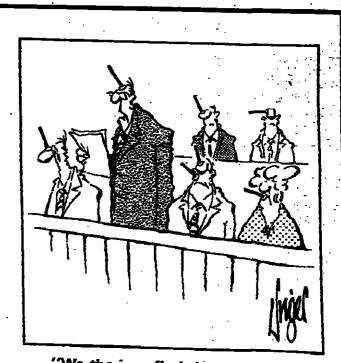


You are all too liable to make mis takes and should check your facts too. Do not allow yourself to believe that what you would like to be always is. Pay more attention to what other are saying. Be straight forward.

4



"You won't find it under 'plumber." Look under 'drain surgeon.'"



'We the jury find the defendant not guilty by reason of insanity."



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ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

#### Kasparov, Gelfand unbeaten

LINARES, Spain, Feb 24, (Reuter); World champion Garry Kasparov and young fellow-Soviet Boris Gelfand remained undefeated yesterday after the fifth round of the Linares Chess Tournament, the only

players not to have lost a game. Kasparov with the black pieces beat Artur Yusupov, also of the Soviet Union, in 60 moves and six hours of play while Gel-fand, a 22-year-old student, disposed of the United States' Boris Gulko in 44 moves in a queen's

Britain's Nigel Short won against Spanish grand master Miguel Illesca in 63 moves with a

Sicilian defence.
Former world champion Boris
Spassky, a Soviet exile playing
for France, drew against Valery
Salov of the Soviet Union in 34 moves in a queen's Indian

Other results yesterday: Vassily Ivanchuk (Soviet Union) beat Ljubomir Ljubolevic (Yugoslavia) Alexander Beliavsky (Soviet Union) defeated Lajos Portisch

(Hungary)
Standings after the fifth round: Kasparov and Gelfand 4-1/2 points, Ivanchuk 3-1/2, Yusupov three, Short and Salov 2-1/2, one adjourned game each, Gulko and Beliavsky two, Illesca and Spassky 1-1/2 and Ljubolevic 1/2.

## Navratilova brushes aside Smith

# Seles holds on to edge Shriver



Seles: overcame Shriver

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(UPI): Monica Seles overcame a case of jitters and a strong comeback by Pam Shriver yesterday to gain a semifinal meeting against top seed Martina Navratilova in the \$350,000 Vir-

ginia Slims of Washington. Third-seeded Seles, the 16year-old Yugoslav who lives in Sarasota, Fla., beat seventh seed Shriver 6-2, 7-6 (7-5) to set up this evening's match against Navratilova, who handled unseeded Anne Smith 6-4, 6-2, while surrendering just two points off her serve in the second

The other semifinal will put second seed Garrison against fourth seed Natalia Zvereva. Garrison, ranked fourth in the world, beat France's Nathalie Tauziat 6-0, 7-6, (7-4), and Zvereva, the 18-year-old Soviet, battled back to best Australia's Nicole Provis 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Seles kept the veteran Shriver at bay with powerful ground strokes and brilliant service returns in winning the first set and taking a 5-2 lead in the second set. But down two breaks, Shriver broke back in the eighth game, fought off a match point in holding serve in the ninth game and broke Seles again in the 10th game after staving off another three match points.

tiebreaker, but Seles won the match with a service winner and

consecutive passing shots. Seles confessed to a case of nerves that contributed to squandering four match points.

"Going into the match I was a little scared because it was the first time I played Pam," Seles said. "I had so many match points and always on the match points I was just chicken. I couldn't hit the ball, I was so scared. My hands were shaking and I don't know why.'

Shriver said Seles "kind of gagged on two match points. She tried a dumb drop shot, then she missed a shot wide. Up until then, she wasn't making any mistakes at all. She's going to run hot and cold. The way she plays, that's going to be a pattern. Seles was playing her first

match of the tournament after receiving a first-round bye and advancing by walkover against Stacey Martin in the second round. She reached the semifinals here last year only to default with an ankle injury. Navratilova won the battle of serve-and-volley players to

improve her record to 19-1 against Dallas native Smith, the one setback coming in 1980 on an

injury default. Navratilova struggled with

off break points in the first and fifth games before suffering a service break in the ninth game. But Navratilova broke Smith twice in the set, including in the final game.

Navratilova had better success with her serve in the second set, allowing just two points on her serve in the set while breaking

Trailing 3-2 in the second set, Zvereva won the next six games and broke Provis three times in the final set to secure the victory. Zvereva has won all three meetings against Provis.

Garrison, of Houston, won the first eight games of the match and led 5-1 in the second set before Tauziat recorded three service breaks in succession to force a tiebreaker.

■ In Oklahoma City, top-seeded Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland defeated Etsuko Inoue of Japan, 6-2, 6-0 yesterday in the Virginia Slims of Oklahoma tennis tournament being played at the Greens County Club.

In other quarterfinal singles matches, third-seeded Amy Frazier of the United States defeated No. 6 Anne Minter of Australia, 6-2, 7-6 (7), and American Angelica Gavaldon defeated Brenda Schult, of the

# Jennings first in ope. fast 3,000 metres in ri

#### Scott feels cheated

NEW YORK, Feb 24, (Reuter): Lynn Jennings used a brilliant late burst of speed to win the 3,000 metres in US record time and lead two other women in under the old mark yesterday at the US National Indoor Athletics Championships.

Jennings, who had bided her time behind front-running Pattisue Plumer and Vicki Huber, accelerated past Huber midway through the fast lap to win in eight minutes 40.45 seconds.

Plumer also overtook Huber at the end to finish one second behind Jennings, with Huber third in

8:42.13. The old US mark was 8:44.05 set by Lesley Lahane in 1987. The world best belongs to Elly van Hulst of the Netherlands who clocked 8:33.82 in Budapest last

year.

"The record is a by-product of great personnel," said Jennings.

"With the type of people on the track, I knew the record would

Plumer said the result vindicated US distance running "because we've been beaten up a lot by the Romanians and now we finally

beat them up."
Romanians Margareta Keszeg and Viorica Ghican finished

fourth and sixth, respectively.

The championships, which completed an 11-meet indoor Grand Prix season, were bereft of many big names. Greg Foster, Jackie Joyner-Kersee, Evelyn Ashford and Butch Reynolds were among

Attendance, as well as competition, suffered. The crowd at Madison Square Garden was announced as 11,849 but it appeared that perhaps only half that many were on hand.

It was a happy night, however, for Lavonna Martin and Doug Padilla, who won their events to clinch the overall points titles for the circuit and a total bonus of

Martin, 23, squeezed to victory in the 55-metre hurdles by one-hundredth of a second ahead of Lynda Tolbert in a tight race that had all six runners in contention. Martin timed 7.44 in posting her sixth Grand Prix win of the season. "I couldn't be sure at the finish. My lean at the tape helped me a lot," Martin said.

This sets me up for outdoors. It gives me a whole lot of confidence," said Martin, whose superb season included three cousecutive win over double Olympic

champion Jackie Joyner-Kersee. Padilla, the US indoor record bolder at both two miles and 5,000 metres, charged into the lead with two laps left to win the 3,000 metres

It's been the best indoor season I'ver had," said Padilla who won five of eight indoor races from the mile to the 5-km.

Diane Dixon won the women's 400 for her ninth national indoor

title — the most ever by a woman. The most thrilling, and con-troversial, finish of the meet came in the mile.

Marcus O'Sullivan of Ireland, the two-time world indoor 1,500



Marcus O'Sullivari

mile record holder Steve Scott finished in a dead heat to share first place in the mile in 3:57.35. O'Sullivan held of a charge by Scott midway through the final lap and looked on his way to victory.

But Scott summoned one last surge

1 Jack

Alpkii Meeri

and caught O'Suliivan at the tape. Scott, believing the victory was his, raised his arms to the crowd and took a victory lap. But the American was joined by O'Sullivan on the winner's stand after the judges viewed a photo of

"From my view, Scott did hit the tape ahead of me," O'Sullivan said. "But the tape is six inches or so past the finish line."

The dead heat bruised more than just Scott's ego — it also hit him in his wallet. An outright victory would have moved Scott ahead of O'Sullivan in the season's final points standings and yielded him an extra \$2,000.

"I just assumed the tape is direc-tly over the finish timer. I though the tape and the line were the same," Scott said.

"In most cases there is a string on the tape so that the string is activated for the finish. That it wasn't was the fault of TAC, he said, placing blame on the Attletics Congress, the US governing body for athletics.

American Eddit Hart, the for-

mer co-holder of the 100-metres world record, was foiled again the clock.

Hart, a 100-metres favourite at the 1972 Munich Games who lost his chance at Olympic glory when he misread the schedule and missed his preliminary heat, was making a comeback at the age of 40 in the 55 metres at the National Indoor Championships yesterday.

This time Hart was on time for his heat, but failed to post a time as he was disqualified after two false

## Sampras stuns Mayotte

PHILADELPHA, Feb 24, (Reuter): The expected form continued to crumble at the \$1 million US Pro Indoor Tennis Tournament yesterday as two-time champion Tim Mayotte and fellow Americans Jay Berger and Jim Courier became the latest upset

The fifth-seeded Mayotte, who had reached the final here for the past four years, lost his fourth match in five meetings to 13th-seeded American Pete Sampras 6-4 4-6 6-3.

Unseeded qualifier Mark Kratzmann of Australia, ranked 122, reached the semifinals with a stunning upset of the hard-hitting, eighth-seeded Courier, who had hoped to break into the world's top-20 with a strong showing here. Kratzmann won a tense third set tiebreak 9-7 to

finish off Courier 4-6 6-3 7-6 and set up a semifinal In the night's final match, fourth-seeded Berger

fell to 53rd-ranked Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia 7-The tournament's top three seeds, John McEnroe, Brad Gilbert and Andre Agassi, all failed to

reach the quarterfinals. Andres Gomez of Ecuador, seeded sventh, was the only player to avoid being upset yesterday as he narrowly defeated Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlans 7-6 6-7 6-4. Gomez was to play Korda in this

evening's other semifinal. The 22-year-odl Korda, who reached the quarterfinals last week in Toronto, totally dominated the 10th-ranked Berger after winning the first set

"I was hitting very good balls," Korda said. "He didn't look like a top-10 player and I hit a lot of perfect winners."



extremely confident based on his past results here, the 32nd-ranked Sampras, who upset Sweden's Mats Wilander at the US Open last year, demon-

strated some more of his great potential.

The left-handed Kratzmann, who played three qualifying matches to reach the main draw, became just the third qualifier in nine years to reach the semifinals of this event.

## Allen maintains lead

PACIFIC PALISADES, California, Feb 24, (Reuter): American Mike Allen established a 36-hole course record yesterday and held a one-stroke lead at the halfway point of the \$1 million Los Angeles Open golf

Allen, in his first year on the US Tour after playing in Europe for the past four years, stood at 11-under-par 131 to stay one stroke ahead of Rocco Mediate and three in front of the quartet of Tony Sills, Peter Jacobsen, Gil Morgan and former Masters champion Craig Stadler.

Allen added a bogey-free three-under-par 68 to his opening-round eight-under 63 to break the 36-hole Riviera Country Club mark of 132

set by Hal Sutton and Gary Koch in 1985.

"I'm not sure I've ever played 36 holes without a bogey before,"
Allen said. "I think I played every bit as well today as I did yesterday, but I didn't make the putts.

"I feel very confident in what I'm doing. I'm in a groove," added the 1989 Scottish Open champion.

In Ewa Beach, Hawaii, Beth Daniel, who began the day two shots down, fired a five-under-par 67 to move into a two-stroke lead after the second round of the Hawaiian Open golf tournament yesterday. Daniel, who posted a 71 in the first round, parred the first three holes

before making her move on overnight leaders Patty Sheehan, Elaine Crosby and Cathy Gerring.

She birdied the fourth and fifth and, after a temporary setback with a bogey at number eight, she birdied four straight from the 14th to stand

■ And in Hong Kong, rain forced the cancellation of third round play in the Hong Kong Open tournament today.

Organisers said the \$200,000 event, the second on the 10-leg Asian circuit, would be decided over 54 holes. The final round will be played

#### Lendl going to Prague after 6 years

STUTTGART, West Germany, Feb 24, (AP): Ivan LendI plans to travel overland when he returns to Czechoslovakia next week for the first time since 1984 to play in an exhibition match for a chil-dren's charity. Lendi plans to take a six-hour

car ride to Prague on Monday rather than fly, so he can visit friends and relatives along the

Fourteen thousands fans have paid between 100 and 150 crowns — 10 times the cost of a movie ticket — to watch the Connecticut-based top-ranked tennis players face Czechoslovak Davis Cup star Miloslav Mecir Tuesday

"I don't know what to expect." Lendi said yesterday of his return to his native land. "I don't want to put my expectations too high because I don't want to be too disappointed."



**New McLaren car unveiled** 

The Honda Mariboro McLaren Formula One team unveiled its latest type MP 4/5B car on Thursday in London. Ayrton Senna (left) and Gerhard Berger will be using this car in the 1990 Formula One World championships. (Heuter wirephoto)

# Christie and Adam lead Britain to victory



Christie: 1st in 60m, 2nd in 200m

GLASGOW, Scotland, Feb 24, (AP): Linford Christie and Marcus Adam dominated the sprint events vesterday to lead the British men's track team to its first indoor victory ever against East Germany. The East German women however, maintained their winning record against Britain. Christic, the silver medallist in the 100 metres at

the 1988 Seoul Olympics, won the 60-metre dash in 6.61 seconds. Adam edged Christie in a photo finish to win the 200 metres in 20.97 seconds, the time Christie also finished in. Adam placed second in the 60 in 6.73 seconds. Christie and Adam then joined with John Regis

and Clarence Callender to win the 800-metre relay in a British record of 1:22.99, despite a poor handoff between Regis and Callender The British men, who had lost each of their nine

previous indoor dual meets with the East Germans, won the meet 88-61. Peter Elliott of Great Britain edged Jens-Peter

Herold of East Germany in the 1,500 metres. Elliott, 1,500-metre silver medallist in Seoul, won the race in 3:46.79 seconds by sprinting past Herold, the Seoul bronze medallist, in the final 20-metres. Herold finished in 3:47.16.

Two-time world champion Silke Moller won the 60 metres in 7.27 seconds and was one of East

Germany's women winners. The East German women defeated Britain 79-1/2 to 46-1/2 for their 10th consecutive indoor triumph in the series. World indoor champion Christine Wachter

defeated East German compatriot Sigrun Wodars. an Olympic and world champion, by two-hundred ths of a second to capture the 800 metres in 2:02.49. Despite their success, Christic and Adam said they were disappointed with their times and thought the track prevented them from better results.

"I didn't think it went too well," Christic said after the 60-metre dash. "I was running hard but the track is slow. It's too soft, though it is better than last year."

Some East German runners agreed that the track which will host the European Indoor Track and Field Championships next weekend, was too soft. The Kelvin Hall Arena has been overhauled in the past year and a fifth lane added to the track for the European Championships.

Few records were threatened during the meet but Mark Easton set a British record of 20:01.65 while finishing second in the 5,000-metre walk. The winner of the event was East German Axel Noackill 18:56.27, the fastest time ever in the event one British track.



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PLANTATION, Florida, Feb 24. (AP): Heavyweight boxer Harold Reitman opens his right fist, the one that knocked an opponent unconscious for nearly four minutes in a recent fight.
"Feel my hand," Reitman
says. "Smooth as a baby's tush."

The same hand can also slide a camera lens the size of a pinhead into a knee before arthroscopic surgery or replace a useless hip joint with an artificial one.

Reitman, 3-0 as a professional boxer, makes his living as an orthopaedic surgeon.
"I can't do either halfway," he

said. "The stakes are too high." Reitman, who will turn 40 next month, has drawn national attention by knocking out all three opponents in less than two rounds. His fourth fight was to be a black-tie affair this evening against 200-pound (91-kilogramme) Vale Payton, 28, who will make his prodebut at St Andrew's Country Club in Boca

"Have you seen the doctor fight?" asked Allie Ridgway of Miami, who has trained boxers for 52 years. "He's vicious. The way he's been taking care of his opponents, they should be ringing his doorbell for free consulta-

The 5-foot-11 (1.8 metre), 212pound (96-kilogramme) Reitman, who lives in the Fort Lauderdale suburb of Plantation, is married and the father of a 7-year-old girl. Because of his age, Reitman needed special perission from the Florida State Athletic Commission to receive his professional boxing licence last November.
"He's an unusual case, an

excellent physical specimen who obviously has some talent," said Harry Brennan, assistant executive director for the com-

"I understand he's a very successful surgeon. Why he would want to get in a ring is beyond my comprehension. This is America, I guess, as Don King would say."

Reitman acknowledges that the American Medical Association has taken a stance against boxing, but he said he weighed the pros and cons of that opinion. His conclusion: "Boxing isn't for everyone, but it's for

Reitman began boxing as a 13-year-old in Jersey City, New Jer-sey: He won the New England Golden Gloves championship during medical school at Boston University in 1971, then stopped boxing to pursue his medical

Daughter Rebecca's fight for life in 1985 sourced Reitman's return to the ring. Rebecca, now fully recovered, had two vascular brain tumors removed during two operations. One tumor had

"In my prayers," Reitman said, "I told God if my daughter could be OK, I'd box the biggest fighter I could find."

He did just that, losing a split decision to 6-foot-5(1.95-metre), 315-pound (143kilogram) Steven Elmore in the 1985 Sunshine

State Games in Tampa. Then when boxing trainer Tommy Torino became a patient of Reitman's in late 1988, the

doctor started to talk seriously about fighting professionally. "I'm looking at this 37-year-old, 240-pound (108-kilogramme) wealthy orth-

opaedic surgeon and thinking, this is not the type of guy I want to deal with," Torino recalled. But Reitman was persuasive. and Torino is now his trainer and manager

The deal is, I box for as long as I can compete or until Tommy pulls the plug," Reitman said. "If he thinks I can't handle it anymore, it's over. Period."

#### **Brad Gilbert** top-seeded

ROTTERDAM, Feb 24, (UPI): American Brad Gilbert is top-seeded for next week's world ten-nis tournament in Rotterdam, while Argentina's Alberto Man-cino and Yannick Noah of France take the 2nd and 3rd seedings, organisers announced on Friday. At the same time the organisers said that following a string of

wins against prominent players in recent months Dutch home player Paul Haarhuis was advanced 20 places in ATP rankings to settle at 52.

The surprising Haarhuis defeated not only John McEnroe in the last US Open and Swede Mikael Pernfors in Philadelphia last week, but also knocked out

in Philadelphia. In the first round Haarhuis was to meet Noah, who declared in Stuttgart only last week, after having taken a convincing beating by Sweden's Jonas Svensson, that he was tired and badly

nceded a rest. A drawback for the organisers was a cancellation from US veteran Jimmy Connors who has not yet recovered from a wrist injury he received in Milan in the beginning of February.

## Kiwis fight back against Indians

# operates in ring Azharuddin hits 192

Feb 24, (Reuter): New Zealand put on a second innings 135 for one in the third Test today but their play looked staid after India's scintillating first innings performance.

Captain Mohammed Azharuddin led the tourists to a 91-run first innings lead with a performance of sustained brilliance in which he scored 192 runs.

At 316 for seven overnight, the Indians added 166 runs to score a first innings total of 482. Inspired by Azharuddin's batting, little wicket-keeper Kiran More and pace bowler Atul Wasson kept up a hectic pace.

Azharuddin and More put on 88 for the eighth wicket, and at one stage More began to outscore his captain and hit eight fours in his 50.

Then Wasson made 53 off just 58 balls, hitting seven fours with Azharuddin put on another 86 for the ninth wicker.

Azharuddin was finally caught on the edge of the extracover boundary attempting a big hit off Shane Thomson. In seven hours at the crease, he faced 259 balls and hit 26 fours to play the most outstanding, if not the high-est, innings of his Test career. His highest Test score of 199 was set against a weaker Sri Lankan side.

Of the Indian wickets that remained to be taken overnight, two fell to Danny Morrison, who bowled faster than at any time in the series and for the third time took a bag of five wickets. The start to New Zealand's

an early wicket at seven when Frevor Franklin was lbw to Manoj Prabhakar. Franklin, who has had a poor

series apart from a half century at

second innings lacked the pace of

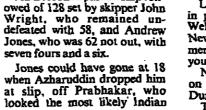
play earlier in the day. They lost

that he was the only player from the current line up to be dropped from the squad for the first oneday match in a triangular tournament with India and Australia

An unbroken partnership foll-Wright, who remained undefeated with 58, and Andrew Jones, who was 62 not out, with seven fours and a six.

bowler. The Indian attack was

New Zealand announced



depleted by their third seamer Wasson having to leave the field for fear of aggravating an injury he suffered while batting in the

today an almost unchanged



Azharuddin: blasts Kiwis

#### triangular one-day series against Australia and India Franklin is replaced by

squad for the first match of a

Wellington all-rounder Gavin Larsen, 23, who bats in the middle order and bowls at medium

Larsen, who has a good record in playing one-day cricket for Wellington, has not played for New Zealand before, but was a member of the last New Zealand youth side to tour Zimbabwe.

New Zealand's opening match on March 1 is against India at Dunedin.

The squad: John Wright (captain), Andrew Jones, Martin Crowe, Mark Greatbatch. Ken Rutherford, Gavin Larsen, Shane Thomson, Ian Smith (WK), Richard Hadlee, John Bracewell, Martin Snedden Danny Morrison. Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND first innings 391 (I smith 173, R. Hadlee 87) INDIA first innings (overnight 316 for seven)

W. Raman c Franklin b Hadlee ...... 8 M. Prabhakar Ibw b Snedden ...... 36 S. Manjrekar b Morrison...... D Vengsarkar c Smith b Morrison 47 M. Azharuddin c Rutherford b Thomson

S. Tendulkar c Smith b Morrison... 5 Gursharan Singh c and 

K. More lbw b Mornson... A. Wasson b Morrison... N. Hirwani not out ...... Extras (b-1, lb-11, nb-22, w-1) .... Fall of wickets: 1-152-653-71 4-215

5-223 6-263 7-308 8-396 9-482 Bowling: Hadlee 30-8-123-2 (4nb), Morrison 30-3-145-5 (14nb), Sned-den 26-4-110-1 (2nb), Thomson 18.3-3-92-2 (2nb, 1w). NEW ZEALAND second innings

Wright not out ... . ... Jones not out Extras (b-1, lb-5, nb-7) .... Total (one wicket)

To bat M. Crowe, M. Greatbatch, K. Rutherford, S. Thomson, R. Hadlee, I. Smith, M. Snedden, D. Morrison Wicket fell at 7. Bowling (to date): Kapil Dev 12-3-

Wasson 6-1-20-0 (4nb), Hirwani 15-7-27-0, Raman 5-3-2-0.

#### **Cubans dominate boxing Vedder plans to** avenge defeat

HAVANA, Feb 24, (Reuter): The finals of the first phase of World Boxing Cup will be an all Cuban affair aften the Caribbean island's boxers swent all four weight categories in semifinal action last night. Opponents had no answer to the superior punch-

ing-power, fitness and technique of the well-drilled Most convincing was middleweight Ramon Garbey who floored East German Wolf Preiss early in e second round with a cracking right hook. Preiss survived the count but his corner decided he had had

enough. Garbey was to meet compatriot Orestes Solano in the middleweight final this evening. Solano's Brazilian opponent Luis Carlos Almeida retired after the first round because his corner was unable to stop profuse bleeding from his nose.

In the most exciting bout of the World Cup event, Cuban featherweight Eddy Suarez and gutsy Soviet

Serguei Galikeev punched each other to near exhaustion over five rounds. Suarez began with a furious flurry of punches in

the first round but Galikeev's scoring picked up in the third as he landed accurate jabs and hooks to the Suarez was awarded the contest on points and will

meet Arnaldo Mesa in the final after Mesa outpointed East German Marco Rudolph.

light welterweight Livan Blanco who started sluggi shly against Soviet Alexander Banin. Livan picked up in the third round but appeared lucky to win on points after he was knocked down in the fifth round by the Soviet boxer. Blanco faces Candelario Duvergel whose

semifinal ended abruptly when West German opponent Egidio Piseddu, clearly outmatched by the Cuban, threw in the towel after the first round.

BISMARCK, N.D., Feb 24, (Reuter): David Vedder is confident of avenging a defeat five years ago by fellow American Virgil Hill when he challenges the World Boxing Association lightheavyweight champion for his crown tomorrow. But Vedder, who lost on points

over six rounds in his first meeting with Hill, faces a daunting challenge. While he has been beaten eight

times in 22 professional fights, Hill has won all his 26 bouts since turning pro after winning a silver medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.



West German team manager Kurt Schneider (left), consoles Volker Fried after W. Germany lost the semitinal of the 7th World Hockey Cup against Holland 3-2 in Lahore, Pakistan, earlier this week. (Reuter wirephoto)

#### Monroes almost there

BARRING an unmitigated disaster against Ragamulfins tonight. Monroes should soon be installed as Mouchel Monday Darts League champions for 1989-90. Coming into their last game of the season they have a 2-point lead over Raggs, who themselves have a tough game in prospect with Exisles. One point, or even a 2-4 defeat, will be enough to ensure a first title for Keith Chandler's side who have performed well throughout the season. A good win this week at Cottar Hoose didn't quite clinch the League title as Baggs survived two extremely close Mickey Mouse legs to defeat Ragamuffins. Campanologists cannot now catch

Mouroes, but any slip up by Baggs would allow the cheery fingers to steal 2nd place as they have a superior game The men's matches this week

The men's matches unis week produced some fine scoring, the 3 main adversaries for the High Scores trophy all doing well. Erik Christensen had 3 more, although his lead has been cut to 3, John Watson earning 4 against Tyne Tees, in a match which also saw Andy Wilson also add 4 to his total to mainwison asso and 4 to his total to main-tain an ouside chance. Wilson also had a notable performance in beating lan Thomas 2-0 as he gained revenge for his defeat in the final of the Captain's and nittee's Cup, on this occasion double 19 working to his advantage

Brian Dolby and Peter Granowski both had first 140s of the year, whilst Bill Vigente, Rod Parr and Ian Thomas repeated the feat. Other players recording 3 high scores were Mohd Al ndi, Bill Morton Marshall Byiers and Peter Bond, and with only 6 fixtures remaining to be fulfiled. Wayne Mock's 117 finish still stands as the Highest Monday League finish.

Some intense activity in the Mouchel Ladies League has brought Feath-erlights within sight of their first championship. A win at TCF was greatly enhanced by Cottar Hoose's fine win over Marilyns, Rana Byiars scoring 3 MM bulls, as the screen stars lost their Fratherlights in action again when they downed the Hoose 3-1, as it was then Vel Fond's turn to hit 3 bulls. On the verge of capturing the leadership they then lost to Appealers on Thursday night, to stay one point adrift with 3 games in hand. Coupled with Cottar Hoose's defeat, this was an important victory for Appealers, as it keeps them in with a chance of third place honours. However, with Featherlights still due to

play Nightflights twice circumstances may well remain beyond their control. This week's results were as follows, with ladies scores in brackets:-

with ladies scores in brackets;Mouroes (1):5 Cottar Hoose (3):1
Tyne Tees P.P. (1):1 Campanolog. (3):5
Baggs (4):4 Ragamuffins (0):2
T.C.F. (1):1 Braft. & Liszt (3):5
Sof the Yeast 1 Exiles 5
Cottar Hoose (1):4 Braft. & Liszt (3):2
Campanalog. (3):4 Braft. & Liszt (1):2

#### **Jahangir** struggles

CARDIFF, Feb 24, (Reuter): Eight times Battsh Open squash champion Jahangir Khan was stretched to five games before beating home favourite Adrian Dayles in a quarterfinal of the

Davies lought back from two games down to level the score before bowing out to the second seeded former world champion 15-7 15-9 8-15 10-15 15-6 in 84

Jahangir meets fellow Pakis-tani Mir Zaman Gul in the semifinals after the world number 10 made a dramatic recovery against Scotland's Mark MacLean, saving nine match balls to win 12-15 10-15 15-14 15-



Filcheck members Romy Velayo (left) and Diony Bartolome take a breather during a practice game.

#### KHC, Trico, EEI and KPBC triumph in favour of KRP as Jumadiao THE Kuwait Pinoy Basketball impatient with their shot selec-

League (KPBL) started its tournament proper for the 1st Conference, 1990 season on Friday at the Kaifan High School Gym. The usual crowd of basketball enthusiasts were once again delighted to see their favourite players and teams participate in this league, being sponsored by Sharp Electronics, Al Rashed Freight and Mabuhay Restaurant & Salon. The results of Friday's games are as follows: KHC-Bayan vs Kay & Associates

KHC-Bayan made their debut with a 112-76 romp over an undermanned Kay & Associates quintet. KHC raced to a 14 point lead at half-time (51-37), courtesy of X-Ortega. The combination of Marin, Atoy Kai, Velayo. Morales and Medrano tried to contain the KHC onslaught, but KHC's deeper bench and stamina prevailed. The second half was an entire KHC show of force. Unleashing their fastbreak plays, they scored 64 second half points against KAI's 39. Final tally was KHC 112 and KAI 76. KHC-Bayan were again led by the X-man Orgega, who was eventually chosen as the Mabuhay Best Player of the Game for his game high 47 pts performance. He was ably sup-ported by Guinto 17, Abubo 14, Tangpus 8 and Lising 6. Kay & Associates who don't have a legitimate centre were led by the ever-durable Velayo 19, Marin 18 and Atoy Kai 13. Trico International vs KRP-

Kuwait Regency Palace -Trico International, with its line-up finally complete, outsteadied the hard fighting Kuwait Regency Palace 5. Final

score - Trico 101, KRP 94. The first half of action saw KRP managing to keep within distance of the fast-breaking Trico squad. Speedy Bolito lived up to his name as he led his team in half-time scoring with 14 points. Half-time tally was 44-46

hit a 3 pointer from the centre-line with 2 seconds left in the first half, to the delight of the pro-KRP crowd.

The second half was a different story. Tightening up on defence, Trico minimised the effectivity of its foe, as Calaycay put the cuffs on speedy Bolito.

Finding the right combination in Calaycay, Magallanes, Menes, Reyes and Attenz, Trico moved ahead never to look back. Gerry Matudio of KRP tried his best to keep his team in pace with its opponents as he managed to score 18 second half points, but this wasn't enough, as speedy Bolito was kept to only 9 second half points. When the smoke cleared, Trico 101, KRP 94.

Top scorers for Trico were Atienza 20, Reyes 19, Calaycay 19, Menez 13 and Magallanes 9. Kuwait Regency Palace, utilising only 8 players and missing the

services of its center "Big Boy" Capati, were led by Speedy Bolito 23, Matudio 21, Reodique 18, and Jumadiao and De Jesus 11 apiece.

Trico's team captain - Adolf Calaycay was chosen as the Mabuhay Best Player of the Game for his 19 points output and outstanding defence on Speedy Bolito.

EEI vs Al Ghanim

The third game was played with much intensity as the previous ones. EEI, unable to display its one-day championship caliber had their hands full in the "never say die" Al Ghanim 5. First half action saw Al Ghanim protecting a hairline lead over its virtual conqueror EEI (31-30).

Al Ghanim look impressive in its mastery of the slow-break as they held back the offense-oriented EEI 5, however, they ran out

tions early in the 4th quarter, which EEI used to the fullest. At this point, Danny Caoili's

charges composed of Lugo. Molina, Garcia, Tuadles and Dingson managed a 12 point lead which they never relinquished until the final buzzer. Final score was EEI 86, Al

Ghanim 70. Top scorers for EEI were Lugo 16, Dingson and Juan 12 each, Tuadles and Molina 10 apiece. Al Ghanim were led by Shifty Dequilla 18, Velasco 12, Garcia 9, De Leon 8 and Ungco 7. Greg Lugo, the 1988 MVP (KPK Palaro), was named the Mabuhay Best Player of the Game for his overall performance of 16 points, 14 in the second half.

KPBC vs Overland Transport Co. The fourth game of the day was between KPBC and OTC. Final score - 118-77 in favour of

KPBC accused of bad coach-



The KPBL ream which thrashed OTC.

ing in its one-day championship loss to EEI made use of 9 players to demolish an impressive Overland quintet. 1st half score was 49-41 in favour of KPBC. "Dilly Ray" Navarro, a 29-yearold driver of Overland Transport Co. provided the baskets that kept his team within striking distance of their opponents.

The 2nd haif was entirely a KPBC circus. Fielding its starters, with the exception of Lito de la Cruz who already had seen action in the 1st half, KPBC raced to a 20 points lead enroute to a 41-point massacre of OTC. The 2nd half combination of De la Cruz, Castro, Perez, Bar-celona and the "Carnation Baby" Emy Domingo was too much to handle for Billy Ray Navarro and his team-mates. KPBC, with the Big Man from Salmiya "Edwin Castro" controlling both boards erupted for 69 2nd half points, as compared to OTC's 36. Final score was 118-77, and

KPBC were led by Lito de la Cruz 25, Carnation Baby - Domingo 24, Arganoza 19, Salmiya Man -Castro 14, and the foreigner -Serrano 13. Overland were led by Billy Ray Navarro 28, Pined 12 and Moya 10. The Mabuhay Best Player of the Game was "Carnation Baby" - Emy Domingo for his 24 points performance which he scored all in the 2nd half.

KPBL schedule for today: 9.00 am: KPBC vs KAI; 10.30 am: Trico vs Nissan Al Babtain; 12.00 am: KHC-Bayan vs KDD.

The KPBL Secretariat also hinted that if everything works out, a KPBL selection will be formed and trained to participate in other basketball leagues in Kuwait, as well as other Gulf states where similar Pinoy Basketball League tournaments are being held.

Sunday's games results will be covered in the Tuesday's edition of the Arab Times.

## Favourites prevail

THE first round encounter of the first rated chess tournament organised by the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait "Filcheck" was held on Friday at the new Khabayan Restaurant.
The day saw the pre-tournamen

favourites prevailing in Group A. The game between Rene Mostrales and Ali Maca-ayan of a Danish Gambit Decline provided the day's highlight when Mostrales, who was in extreme time pressure, made a brilliant knight sacrifice in his 36th move that gave him the advantage and eventually the

game.
Other first round winners of Group
A were Niel Dumlao, Ingy Vendiola, Danny Calasin, Edwin Borigas and first-timer Romy Velayo.

In Group B, newcomers Dads
Pates, Jun Alejandro, Alex Espedilla

and Silver Salvado showed their analytical mainoeuvres and prowess by winning their respective matches way below the first time regulation of 45 moves in 1-1/2 hour. Other winners in the group were oldtimers Hussain Ahmad, Gil Opiana Jr., Nilo Magtan-

gob and Diony Bartolome.

The champion and the three runner-ups of both groups will each receive a trophy donated by Trico (No-Kilo) International and valuable gift items from Adawiiah Electronics, distributor of Kasparov Chess Com-puters and Seven-Up Bottling Com-

The second game of the 7-round Swiss system tournament will be played as scheduled on Friday, March 1990, at the Kabayan Restaurant 2nd round schedule, Friday, March 2 Group B (9:00 am) W 22 6 18 20

Group A (12.00 noon)

## First round scores

Group B: 1. Mauro Buriat, 0; 2. Dads Paie.
1; 3. Diony Bartolome, 1; 4. Mel Espinosa.
0; 5. Hussain Ahmad, 1; 6. Robert Vargas,
0; 7. Jun Emutan, 0; 8. Gil Opiana Jr., 1; 9.
Bernard de los Reyes, 0; 10. Nilo Magtangob, 1; 11. Jigs Acodisen, 1/2; 12. Nonoy
Caro, 1/2; 13. Dedi Herras, 0; 14. Silver
Salvado, 1; 15. Rolly Mercado, 1/2; 16.
Stanley Sawit, 1/2; 17. Jun Alejandro, 1;
18. Bamra Bucay, 0; 19. Alex Espedilla, 1;
20. Fred Marasigan, 0; 21. Vic Corpuz, 1/2; 22. Robert Daiz, 1/2; 17. Jun Alejandro, 1;
18. Group A: 1. Thony Moreal, 1/2; 2. Sammy

2: 22. Robert Daiz, 1/2.

Group A: 1. Thony Moreal, 1/2; 2. Sammy Aurelano, 1/2; 3. Niel Dumlao, 1; 4. Jess Betguen, 0; 5. Romy Padaguan, 1/2; 6. Chito Barrios, 1/2; 7. Rene Mostrales, 1; 8. Ali Maca-ayan, 0; 9. Ariel Martinez, 1/2; 10. Ramon Cortado, 1/2; 11. Ingemar Vendiola. 1; 12. Rolly Boado, 0; 13. Rading Moje, 1/2; 14. Nanding Policarpio, 1/2; 15. Armel Matutino, 0; 16. Danilo Calasin, 1: 17. Rey Mangornong, 0; 18. Edwin Borigas, 1; 19. Ver Farrales, 1; 20. Romy Velayo, 0; 21. Wahab Alamada, 1/2; 22. Rey Cortez, 1/2.

Meanwhile, the club's newly elected board of directors held their first meeting on Friday, at the new

meeting on Friday, at the new Kabayan Restaurant and formalised their ranks as follows:

President, Edward Racaza Executive vice-president, Rene

Mostrales Vice-presidents: Tournaments, Chito Barrios: Membership, Jess Betguen; Solicitations and special projects, Rading Moje; Media and external affairs, Edwin Borigas. Assistant vice-presidents. Tour-

naments. Mon Cortado; Membership, Nanding Policarpie; Solicitations and special projects. Ali Maca-ayan, Media and external affairs. Niel

Secretary, Danny Calasin: Treasurer, Sammy Aurelano; Auditor, Thony Monreal; Directors, Jun Mercado, Teddy Lagmay.

## Haddad scores equaliser

# **Oman hold Kuwait**



An Omani player and a Kuwaiti fight for the ball



121

SPORTS BRIEFS

NEW YORK, Feb 24. (Reuter): Results of National Basketball

Association (NBA) games played

104 Charlotte

102 Indiana

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 128
 New York
 121

 Houston
 125
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 Chicago
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 Portland
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 San Antonio 105
 Minnesota
 95

 Denver
 121
 L. A Clippers
 112

 Scattle
 97
 Sacramento
 85

 Boston
 123
 Golden State
 111

 L.A Lakers
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 Philadelphia
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Contract extended

Bayern draw

Cup stadium

ROME, Feb 24, (Reuter): World

Cup soccer hosts Italy have extended national team manager Azeglio Vicini's contract until 1992 in a show of confidence ahead of the finals

BONN, Feb 24, (Reuter): Cham-pions Bayern Munich, back after the

unnter break took a one-noint lead

ROME, Feb 24, (AP): A West Ger-

128 New York

Orlando

**NBA** games

Cleveland

Miami

Kuwait 1-1 in an Arab Gulf Cup football tournament match at the Kazma Stadium yesterday.

Oman, who on Thursday drew with World Cup finalists United Arab Emirates, in fact came close to causing the first upset in the most popular Gulf sports event by opening the scoring in the 8th minute of the second half. Kuwait, however, did not disappoint the capacity crowd and got the equaliser

The Omanis exploited an opening in the Kuwaiti desence when they launched one of their counterattacks to set up their first goal. A clear pass to Matar K balifa in the box caught the Kuwaiti defenders on the wrong foot. K balifa gave the onrushing goalkeeper no chance to affect a save by placing the ball into the

Kuwait capitalised on the mistake of the Omani goalkeeper to get the equaliser. The goalkeeper, Yousef Obeid, tried to place the ball on the ground but lost control of it. Kuwait's Mohammed Ibrahim pounced on the ball and passed to Hamad Al Saleh, who shot at the goal. The ball deflected off Obeid's body and in to the path of Muayyad Haddad, who made no mistake.

Oman's Mohammed Nasser and Kuwait's captain Nasser Al Ghanim

became the first players in the tournament to be sent off when they were given

their marching orders by the Ecuadorian referee.

With yesterday's draw, Kuwait stay at the top of the table with three points from two matches while Oman have two points, UAE, Bahrain and Qatar have

Nome point each while Iraq have not yet played any game.

Kuwait began yesterday's match cautiously but soon they began organising their attacks. Kuwait, however, is still being affected by their weak midfield. Veteran Nasser Al Ghanim, the lynchpin of the team, has not yet been able to

Kuwait's game improved after Oman had got their goal. Salah Al Hassawi's inclusion in the 15th minute of the second half strengthened the home team's attack and they launched a number of attacks on their opponent's goal.

Today, is a rest day for all teams and the matches will resume tomorrow with a match between Iraq and Bahrain. Iraq, the holders, will be playing their first match of the tournmaent and will be looking forward to a good start in their Commenting after the match, on the beating of an Omani player by a

policeman, Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad, president of the Kuwait Football Associa-tion, said that the police and the law of the country should be respected. He added that it was an incident between the player and a securityman and not directed against any one. "The police has been called to preserve law and order and they should be respected," he said. He said that quarelling is totally unacceptable and the two players, who quarrelled, bear the responsibility as they represent the teams of their countries.

On the low attendance of matches so far, Sheikh Fahd said that these days are holidays in Kuwait and majority of people go out camping in the desert. He added that the organising committee received no official complaint about the state of the Kazma ground. Its only the mediamen who are claiming that the



instead of following normal practice and hav-

Luis Fernandez caused a scene, first with the

from me," Fernandez said. "In that case, there

is no point him staying with me. I don't want to

The trainer said the decision to ban Fernan-

dez was irreversible and had the full support of

the club president and board as well as of the

Fernandez joined Cannes last summer after a

year out of the game because of injury and a

dispute with his previous club, Matra Racing.

ing it later with his teammates in the lounge.

waiter and then with the trainer, he said.

hear anything about him anymore."

other players.

#### **Becker beats** Svensson to reach final

STUTTGART, West Germany, Feb 24, (Reuter): Wimbledon champion Boris Becker overcame a hesitant start to reach the final of the Stuttgart Classic ATP tennis tournament with a 7-5 6-2 victory over Sweden's Jonas Svensson today.

The West German world number two looked in trouble early in the first set when Svensson, ranked 44th in the world, broke his serve in the second game and went on to take a 5-3 lead.

But Becker, who struggled to find his normal strong serve-andvolley game in the early stages, broke back to 5-4 and went on to win the set 7-5.

Once in top gear, the West German took the second set to move confidently towards a possible clash with world number one Ivan Lendl in tomorrow's final of the one-million-dollar

The Czechoslovak top seed, whom Becker is eager to dethrone as the world's top player this year, was meeting Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson in the second semifinal later today.

Yesterday Lendi secured his place in the last four with a convincing 6-3 6-3 victory over West German Patrik Kuchnen.

Lendl did not have it all his player Kuehnen. But the world number one made key breaks of serve in the eighth game of the first set and the seventh of the second to head towards victory.

He now faces Magnus Gustafsson, who ended the remarkable run of Finnish teenager Aki Rahunen when he beat him 6-7 (8-10) 6-1 6-2 in a tough baseline

## Rebel cricketers return home

LONDON, Feb 24, (AP): Annapartheid demonstrators cla-shed with police trying to protect four members of England's rebel cricket team who returned from South Africa today after the tour was cut short.

Two of the 50 protesters were arrested, Scotland Yard said. The protesters, whose main target was team captain Mike Gatting, were taken by surprise when player-manager David Graveney and three other players emerged instead at Heathrow Airport's terminal

one arrival hall. Shouting "Shame on you," the protesters surged toward the cricketers, who were flanked by

four police officers. Police pushed the crowd back, sparking several scuffles, and two protesters were arrested as they threw themselves toward Graveney.

"Gatting is a coward. He is afraid to face the people," the protesters shouted. The team captain is staying on in South Africa for a short vacation, along with the other 11 members of the

The rebels' planned sevenweek tour was cut short because of continuing demonstrations and the changing political situa-tion in South Africa following the release of black nationalist

leader Nelson Mandela.

The South African airways flight carrying Gravency, vice-captain John Emburey, Kim Barnett and Richard Ellison landed three hours late because it was forced to put down in Lisbon en route due to heavy winds.

'My main disappointment was that the trip was curtailed early and that we played so badly until the last game," Graveney

"We will all go back next year if the South African cricket authorities require us to do so because it is in our contract. But obviously, we have no idea what the political circumstances will be in South Africa at that time,"

## Gery sets world best

An action shot of the match. (Photos by Ahmad Barouni)

LEICESTER, England, Feb 24, (Reuter): Canadian Marcel Gery swam a world best short-course time for the second successive day in the heats of the men's 50 metres butterfly at a World Cup meeting today. Gery, who beat the 100 metres butterfly world best in yesterday's neats, knocked seven hundredths of a second off East German Nils Rudolph's 50 metre time, finishing in 24.07 seconds.

Rudolph's world best time, set at a World Cup meeting in Bonn. West Germany, had stood for just 14 days.

The 24-year-old Gery, who defected from Czechoslovakia in 1986, won the Commonwealth Games silver medal over 100 metres in Auckland. Gery, who finished 1.42 seconds ahead of Norwegian Bengi

Staveland, the second fastest qualifier in the 50 metres heats, had an opportunity to improve on his time in the final later this evening. With many international stars missing from this last meeting of the World Cup series, there were few fast performances in the 25-metre pool but Ron Dekker set a Dutch best time in the 100 metres breast-

stroke heats. Dekker, one of only three swimmers to have broken the one-minute barrier in the short-course event, finished in 59.79 seconds, 0.49 of a

second outside the world best set by Dmitri Volkov of the Soviet Union The Dutchman, who was more than three seconds ahead of next fastest qualifier Richard Maden of Britain, hopes to beat Volkov's time

In the absence of strong competition, West German Robert Pufleb is on course for victories in both the 50 and 200 metres freestyle after

#### Darcy retains 5-stroke lead

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DUBAI, Feb 24, (Reuter): Earnonn Darcy slipped to a 75 in today's wind-blown third round of the Desert Classic golf tournament but lost only one stroke of his overnight lead. He was nine under par on 207'

- five clear of Severiano Balles-teros, who shot 71, and Britain's David Gilford (69), David Feherty (70) and Denis Durnian

Irishman Darcy, seeking his first victory since the 1987 Bel-gian Open, covered the first 10 holes in level par and at that stage was eight strokes clear of the field. strength he dropped three strokes over the last seven holes and admitted: "It was no fun. I was tingling with nerves."

Darcy was twice in water, hazards but holed a chip and a 30foot putt to remain in charge.

Ballesteros admitted losing. concentration in the middle of the round and "dropped some stupid

#### finishing well ahead of the other qualifiers. Fashanu takes Wimbledon past Villa

after holding arch rivals Cologne to a 1-1 draw away last night.

sports daily L'Equipe.

with the club's third team.

today. at home in the League this season, squashed their ambitions of opening a five-point lead over

home Dennis Wise's floated free

Paul Miller made sure of 12th-

placed Wimbledon's three points

with a third goal six minutes from

Two players were sent off in seven First Division matches.

Southampton's 35-year old

midfielder Jimmy Case was dis-

missed for elbowing an opponent

just before half-time in the 1-1

draw at Luton, minutes before

his side grabbed an equaliser

Striker Mark Bright was

shown the red card for a similar

incident in the 64th minute of

Crystal Palace's 1-1 draw at

home to Sheffield Wednesday.

through Alan Shearer.

kick from the right touchline.

time.

mancompany hopes to make over 55 million by selling personal-size hunks of the turf it will install in Rome's Olympic Stadium for use during secer's World Cup. Official backing MADRID, Feb 24, (Reuter): The

Spanish government yesterday gave its official backing to a bid by the Pyrenean town of Jaca to host the 1998 Winter Olympics. **Matthews** out DUBLIN, Feb 24, (Reuter): Back row forward Philip Matthews has

been forced by a virus to pull out of the Ireland team to play France in the Five Nations Rugby Union Cham-pionship in Paris on March 3. Title fight

LOWELL, Massachusetts, Feb 24,

(UPI): Bashiru Ali of Nigeria took a unanimous 12-round decision last night from Patrick Lumumba of Kenya to win the WBC cruiserweight

Valencia race VINAROZ, Spain, Feb 24, (AP): East German rider Uwe Raab won the fourth leg of the 48th Tour of Valencia cycling race vesterday, but Tom Cordes of the Netherlands kept

the yellow jersey of overall leader. Baseball talks

NEW YORK, Feb 24, (AP): There was no breakthrough yesterday in US Major League baseball negotiations and exhibition games were being



Cannes bar Fernar

CANNES, France, Jan 24, (Reuter): French

international midfielder Luis Fernandez has

been barred from playing for his club Cannes

after a row over a cup of coffee, his team trainer

Fernandez, a member of the superb midfield

quartet which helped France win the 1984

European Cup, will not play again for Cannes

this season, trainer Jean Fernandez told the

He said Fernandez had been told to train

The trainer said the dispute started as an

argument over a cup of coffee at the team lunch

before Wednesday's match away to Monaco.

Fashanu: got two goals

Bright had scored an equaliser for Palace four minutes earlier. In the fourth round of the Scottish Cup, Aberdeen, second in the Premier Division. recovered to beat First Division Morton 2-1 at home.

Tommy Turner put Morton ahead after just three minutes but Aberdeen hit back with goals by Dutch striker Hans Gilhaus in the 56th minute and former Scotland star Charlie Nicholas 13 minutes from time.

John Robertson scored two first half goals to help Hearts to a 4-0 home victory over fellow Premier Divison side Mother-

English Division One la 0 Wimbledon Manchester U Sheffield Wed Crystal P
Derby
Luton
Manchester C Tottenham Charlton Millwall Arsenal v Liverpool, Ever ton v Nottingham Forest, Norwich

Portsmouth Port Vale Sheffield U Crystal Palace Manchester I in Playing Sunday: Celtic v Rangers Wolves
Newcastle
Port Vale
Oxford
Ipswich
Bourneme Hartlepool Maidstone Scunthorne

Torquay Wrexham l Kilmarnock

Postponed: Arbroath v Brechin, Cow-denbeath v Queen of the South, East Stir-ling v Stirling, Montrose v Dumbarton, ner v East File, Qu



Border's story

Australian cricket team captain Allan Border sits on a stack of copies of his book on the recent Ashes tour of England before a signing session: in a Sydney bookstore on Friday. (Reuter wirephoto)

## **ARAB** @ TIMES

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